Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-89-174 *11 September 1989*

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Costa Rican Minister Madrigal on Area Meeting

PA0709033289 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1520 GMT 6 Sep 89

[Text] San Jose, 6 Sep (ACAN-EFE)—Costa Rican Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal today said he will meet with the other Central American foreign ministers in El Salvador in mid-September to work "in earnest" on the disbanding of the Nicaraguan contras stationed in Honduras.

Madrigal told newspaper reporters: "I suggested this meeting some time ago because several subjects remained pending after the latest area presidents summit held in Honduras in August."

For instance, he said, several details of the political verification procedure related to the fulfillment of the peace plan known as Esquipulas II and entrusted to the International Support and Verification Commission [CIAV] of the OAS and the United Nations have yet to be concluded.

He also said the contras' voluntary demobilization plan needs to be "perfected."

Madrigal added that the UN peace force troops have "at no time" been intended to clash with the contras, who refuse to be disarmed. He also said that this is why "much emphasis was placed" on the guarantees that the Nicaraguan Government must offer them to "lead" them to voluntarily return to their country.

In Honduras, there are approximately 13,000 contras, accompanied by about 35,000 relatives, who receive U.S. humanitarian assistance.

This is why, Madrigal pointed out, it is necessary for the foreign ministers to meet and work "in earnest" on this subject.

A UN Peace Force [ONUCA] should station itself at the most conflict-ridden borders of some of the area countries, probably late in September, to ensure that no country will be used by unconventional groups to attack another country.

The delegation will be made up of soldiers from Spain, Canada, the FRG, and Venezuela.

Area Officials Hold 'Emergency' Antidrug Meeting

PA1009033989 Mexico City THE NEWS in English 3 Sep 89 p 2

[Article by Felix Arciniega]

[Text] An emergency meeting of Attorney Generals and other top officials from nine Latin American nations took place in Mexico City to establish a "common front" and protect one another against takeover efforts by displaced drug barons and their armed mafias.

Named the Seventh International Conference for Drug Control, it was held Aug 29-31 here, and representatives praised Colombian authorities for their immediate reprisal against drug lords and their mafias.

Argentina, Chile, Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala Peru, Costa Rica, Brazil and others all expressed the same apprehension, invasion by displaced Colombian drug dealers.

The United States, attending unofficially, reportedly did not say much but immediately dispatched 65 million dollars worth of sophisticated military hardware delivered Friday to Colombia by two enormous C-130's. Here, mafia warlords openly threatened to carry out their terrorist bombings and killings "in broad daylight to show we cannot be stopped."

Mexican Attorney General Enrique Alvarez del Castillo congratulated those in attendance and offered the experience Mexico had acquired during 10 years of an aggressive drug war.

Besides moral support, Mexico underlined the need for coordinated efforts in laws and action. First, that courts hand down stiff sentences; second, that no bail be granted in drug trials; third, that all property derived from drug profits be confiscated and legally used to defray costs of combatting drug traffic.

In the final resolution, the nine nations accepted to exchange information, coordinate all activities jointly - but carry them out separately because of the delicate issue of national sovereignty - complete cooperation in all areas and to regard the drug effort as an international problem where producer, dealer and user must all be combatted.

On Friday, Brazil and Colombia agreed to jointly protecting their borders to keep drug dealers out and away from those that have become a serious problem in Brazil.

This cooperation is being sought for all cases where there may be danger. And secretly, every nation is fearful of what a concentrated attack by the narcotic mafia and the terrorism, political and de facto, drug lords can buy with their enormous wealth.

Cuba

Castro Meets Nicaragua's Ortega During Stopover

FL0909151589 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 9 Sep 89

[Text] Just after midnight, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro and the minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces [Raul Castro] received the President of Nicaragua, Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega, at the Jose Marti International Airport.

[Begin recording] [Ortega] We are in transit to Managua. We are returning from the nonaligned summit. We are taking advantage of this stopover to meet with Comrade Fidel. I spoke a little bit about the result of the summit meeting, where Comrade Raul was representing Cuba. We feel a great victory was achieved in favor of the interests of the people—the defense of their self-determination, independence. We were able to reaffirm what the principles and basis of the Nonaligned Movement are.

[Unidentified reporter] What about Central America, Nicaragua?

[Ortega] As for Central America, and Latin America, very important resolutions were made. Especially with the case of Panama, where the principle of self-determination, and the independence of the Panamanian people was reaffirmed, and the U.S. interventionist policy was condemned.

[Unidentified reporter] You have just a little bit of time here, right?

[Ortega] That is right, just a little bit of time. Thank you. [end recording]

President Castro Speaks on Special Education

FL0809144989 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 5 Sep 89

[Speech by President Fidel Castro delivered during the official ceremony marking the beginning of the 1989-90 school year, during which six special education schools were inaugurated, in La Lisa Municipality, Havana, on 4 September—recorded]

[Text] Students, teachers, guests, comrades: As previously mentioned, the 1989-90 school year began today. We inaugurated six special education schools today. There are more schools. I am also talking about the primary education prototype school. We call it prototype because it is the type of school we want to establish for the primary schools construction program. We are also building a secondary education prototype school.

This is important because it is linked with the idea of completely developing the primary and secondary school network in the capital. We still have many schools in structures that have been adapted for them. It is not that there are not enough primary schools. It is not that there are no secondary schools. Many have very good installations that must be maintained, so no new buildings have to be built for those schools. However, others are still in structures that have been adapted for schools.

Not all schools have the necessary material conditions. They do not all have adequate classrooms. Sometimes, the classroom is a warm little room without basic facilities. Some have over 30 pupils. We want each primary school to have the necessary facilities with less than 30 students and we want the teaching to be conducted with all the necessary requirements. In other words, there are enough primary and secondary schools but not all have adequate facilities.

Once these special education schools, child care centers, and polyclinics have been completed, we intend to develop other programs. In the field of education, the future problem is construction of all the primary education installations needed to achieve the best conditions in primary education and the best conditions in secondary education. Among other things, we are thinking that each of these schools should have after-school day care facilities, not for all students but for the children of working mothers. After-school day care is the continuation of the child care center. When the child reaches the age of 6, he goes to primary school. If the mother works, she needs a place for the child to stay until she comes back from work.

We propose to have after-school care for the children of working mothers in all these new secondary schools. A child completes primary school at the age 13 or 14. He also needs somebody to look after him. He needs a place to eat lunch. We know that many children go home and go through the trouble of warming up food left for them. We intend to have all new secondary schools have their own kitchen and lunchrooms, or at least, lunchrooms. These schools can either have the food prepared in a larger facility or prepare the food right there so that they don't have to depend on anyone. One of our future dreams is to develop these programs in education.

We have already completed the child care center program with 110 child care centers built in 2 years. Of course, more child care centers need to be built: five, six, or seven. This is not a great number of child care centers. Fortunately, child care centers have already been built. There was a demand for 19,000 slots, and 24,000 have been created. This is why we no longer have the great pressures we used to have. However, the number of working mothers continues to increase and more child care centers need to be built every year to keep up with the demand, but a massive program is not needed.

The polyclinic program will be completed this year. So no new polyclinics will have to be built unless there is a new housing area. Our polyclinics network will be completed. All new polyclinics have physical therapy gymnasiums. We have left those with good installations in the old structures. Next year—starting now—we will start building a physical therapy gymnasium in each one

of them. More than a gymnasium, we are going to offer physical therapy services. The polyclinics will not have a gymnasium proper but will provide physical therapy services.

These three important programs will be completed this year. The child care center program was completed last year. The polyclinic program and the special education school program, totalling 24, will be completed this year.

As Maximo [not further identified] said here, six were inaugurated, and the two that had already been inaugurated makes eight. We need to build 16 more. We expect them to be completed by December. Minibrigade members have many commitments and have done a great deal of work. They are making a special effort.

What do these special education schools mean? Above all, they mean quality of education. There was talk of illiteracy at the beginning of the revolution. There was talk of 25 or 30 percent illiteracy, talk of several thousand adults being illiterate. There were hundreds of thousands of children who did not have teachers, who did not have schools. We talked about these kinds of things during the first years of the revolution.

There have been colossal changes in all this. In the country today, there is not a single child without a school. Some schools may be better than others, some older, one may be in better condition, and another that is not in such good condition. However, there is not one child without a teacher. In addition to this, we have a reserve of 17,000 teachers. We use them to aid in the improvement of the rest of teachers and professors. We didn't have enough teachers at the beginning of the revolution. Many of them were in the capital. Not all of them were willing to go to the countryside, to live in the mountains, in rural areas. None of these problems exist today.

There were no technological schools at the triumph of the revolution. There were not enough secondary schools and, needless to say, not enough pre-university schools. Thousands of schools had to be built to solve all kinds of problems. Technological schools, teachers' schools, schools for physical education teachers, vocational schools, rural schools. All these problems have been solved. These are problems of the past. We have over 1 million students on scholarships. I do not know the figure. I do not know the current exact number of students with scholarships among the boarding and semiboarding students. [Education Minister Jose Ramon] Fernandez, who should know, says it is 1.1 million. This is a fantastic figure. No country in the world has this figure. I am not speaking of a Latin American country. No country has educational opportunities up to the university level. There are already over 200,000 university students. Strict requirements have had to be established to enter higher education.

We have fulfilled all these stages. What do we have ahead of us? We have quality, the matter of quality. What is quality? Quality is to introduce computer training into all university level education. This is the first thing we have done over the last few years. Quality is to bring computers into all preuniversity schools, all technological schools, in all schools for teachers, in all secondary schools in the country. This is quality. This is the quality we have been introducing over the last few years. Next year, everyone, even secondary-level students, will have computer training. This is very important.

It is not a sport, although it could turn into a sport. Many people have fun working with those machines and making computations. Entertainment is introduced into some of them.

However, an architect or an engineer who does not know about computers cannot use many machines or many programs that would allow them to increase their productivity tenfold. Sometimes a calculation needs to be made on the metal structure of a 10- or 15-story building. They could spend 60 hours making calculations. They can make the same calculations with a computer and a program in 3 hours. This is to cite just an example. An architect or an engineer in any specialty area who knows about computers can increase his productivity by many times and do things with more accuracy. There are even machines and programs that design. Humanity has progressed a great deal in this field.

We now have programs to teach architects and engineers who did not learn about computers when they went to the university. The planning front has received resources and has organized programs so that all engineers who did not have the privilege of learning about computers can now learn and master them. This is quality.

Quality is when a program is perfected, is improved, is more efficient. This is why there is a systematic and continuing education program. Quality is when our teachers have more experience, when they master educational techniques better. Quality is when there are audio-visual resources. Quality is when there are facilities. I can cite the example of the Jose Antonio Echeverria Higher Polytechnical Institute, ISPJAE—it used to be CUJAE [expansion unknown]—which has been under construction for many years. Students had difficulties in studying. Now, we have created a contingent. Contingents do solve problems wherever they go.

A contingent will complete in a short period of time a building that has been under construction for over 20 years. It is ready to go there. We have created another contingent to complete another project that was sleeping an eternal sleep.

Quality is to create adequate facilities for students. Quality is to have adequate laboratories. Many medical students studied in the midst of noise and dust created by the construction around them. Magnificent installations for medical studies are now being completed. We have seen the one in Sancti Spiritus. Who would have dreamed of this? That installation is fantastic, as is the one in Camaguey, which was recently inaugurated. They are excellent installations. Logically, students can

develop better with installations of this kind. They can assimilate things better. They have more facilities.

As I have said before, the worst thing was when there was no dust and noise because nothing was being built. A few holes and some columns were made. Work is being done in all those schools and they are being completed. All of this is quality, but this is not the only thing quality entails.

Quality is to have a child care center where children can begin learning at a very early age. They are taught music, their reflexes are developed, their intelligence is developed. Intelligence! In other words, a child increases his capabilities. It is said that much advantage is taken of intelligence but little advantage is taken of the brain's potential.

If pedagogy is greatly developed, if this science is boosted, the percentage of grey matter each human being has in his brain that is used will also increase. Child care centers are important because they develop potential. This potential is developed until a child reaches a certain age. After that age, his potential and his actual capabilities reach the same level. The best thing an individual can do is to attempt to fill his mind with information and knowledge, but he will not have more capability—that is, he can acquire a great deal of information but he will not be more intelligent because of this. He will be more knowledgeable.

I have always said that child care centers are important because they develop a child's intelligence. They increase his capabilities. Afterwards, he can increase his knowledge endlessly. Pedagogy is precisely the science of teaching the maximum amount of knowledge. However, it is not only this. Above all, it teaches the individual to think. As the material he has in his brain gets better, the more intelligent individual will better be able to think.

Therefore, I could say that the child care center program is a solution for working mothers and, also, it enables children to develop more intelligence. These children are preparing for the future. Child care centers improve the quality of education. This is quality.

Who knows how those children who attend child care centers will turn out. We believe that a day will come when not only the children of working mothers will go to child care centers. We hope that there will be a day when we have enough child care centers and resources so that all children can attend these centers. If not, the child that attends a center will have more capabilities than the one who does not. It is better for the country if all the children develop their intelligence to the maximum.

I have been citing some examples of quality. Everybody thinks that all children are exactly the same. However, this is not the case. There are children who have hearing impairments. They were born with the problem. Fortunately, nowadays we have equipment to find out if a child has a hearing impairment within 24 hours. Much can be done even in cases in which a child has a hearing impairment. Nowadays, there are technical solutions even for those who have total hearing loss so that these children can have normal intellectual development. If the problem is not detected and the child is not educated, the child's mental development is slowed down. His intelligence quotient drops because he cannot hear.

Today, there is the possibility of not only implanting some gadgets that can help some of these children to hear, but there are also methods to teach these children. In many cases, the problem can be solved. Few cases suffer from total lack of hearing. They may have 50-, 30-, 40-percent hearing loss. It varies. Those children need special schools. They cannot be sent to regular schools.

There are children who have vision problems. They are not blind but they have various vision problems. They can lose their sight if they are not treated. If they are given the right treatment they can recover their vision totally or to a great degree. Special schools for those children are needed.

There are children who have physical limitations. They have them because they were born with them or because they got them because of some disease or accident. Those children cannot carry out a normal life in any school. They need a special school.

There are children who are behind in their psychological development. They cannot be sent to any school. We inaugurated four of those schools today. They cannot follow the rest of the class. The rest are left behind if attention is given to them alone. If attention is given to the rest, they are left behind. They finally drop out of school. You know the consequences when a child drops out of school and goes to the school of the streets. Anyone can understand what kind of future this child will have whether the child is a boy or a girl.

There are children who have very serious family problems. These children develop certain problems. They develop behavioral problems. Those children cannot be in other schools and they cannot be abandoned. They need special schools.

There are children who have irreversible mental retardation. However, those children need to be educated. What are you going to do with a child who is mentally retarded? Leave him out there? Send him to a regular school? He is still retarded, he drops out of school, and what happens later? I think a lot: What happens to those children in capitalist countries? They are educated in these special schools. They are taught, they are given a trade, they are trained so that they can live normally even though they are mentally retarded.

What can society expect from one of these creatures who grows abandoned to his own fate, without education, without anything? What will happen to them in capitalist countries? Capitalist countries don't care. How many people, how many children suffering from physical abnormalities, are there begging? Sometimes they are seen crawling because they had a bone disease that was not treated. These are other problems, but what do

mentally retarded children do? Was this their fate because they were children of a poor family who ended up begging or in prison? Who knows where they end up. Every society needs these kinds of schools. In general, societies do not have these kinds of schools.

The revolution has been creating these schools in places that have been adapted for these purposes. It has had 40,000 of these students. Nevertheless, there was a need for special schools for 80,000. This is why when the mini-brigade movement reappeared, when we had the manpower, resources had to be found. We reached the conclusion that this problem had to be dealt with so that 100 percent of the children with these problems could have a school. We had to create room for 40,000 students in the entire country. This is what we are creating.

This movement began in Havana. This is why Havana has all the schools it needs. There exists 80 schools of various sizes—but they are schools that can function—and 24 new ones. Room for almost 5,000 new students was created. This increases the available space to 60 percent. Is this not so? Is the comrade not around here? Space is increased by over 60 percent. How many students were enrolled in the capital? How many did we have? Eight thousand?

[Unidentified speaker says: "There were slots that did not exist"]

There were slots that did not exist. Of course. In addition to the slots that did not exist, we had a total of....

[Unidentified speaker continues to talk but words are indistinct]

How many old ones? How many were there before?

[Speaker says: ' We used to have 7,000"] . Seven thousand. And how many are we going to have now? Over 12,000. Eight by four, four by two, eight. I have 5,000. And 8 times 24 is 192. Don't you think I have a computer here. [laughter] We have 5,000 new slots. Because it [not further identified] said 208 but I saw one that said 213, or a little more, slots. So, there are 13,000 slots. If someone had a computer he could figure out the percentage of increase but, according to my figures, there is over a 60-percent increase: 7 by 8 is 56.... [Speaker says: "Commander, the program including the 24 schools enables us to replace 23 that are in poor shape"] Oh, they replace some that are in poor shape. This is why there is not a net increase. The net increase then is 4,000—50 percent. Four thousand is half of 8,000—50 percent. [all figures in paragraph as heard] This is a notable increase.

The most notable thing is that we can say that the need is completely fulfilled in the area of special education schools. I know some of these schools. I have visited the school in Guanabacoa, which is for visually impaired children, two or three times. That school is marvelous. What the children learn there is marvelous. What they learn is not the most important thing. I believe it is important, but there is something that is more impressive. It is to see how a child with a patched eye and with other problems works in some laboratories the school has. Children are cured in the school. Instead of remaining blind, they acquire normal vision. It is a school and a hospital at the same time.

What would happen to those children if they didn't have these schools? We are building two of these, aren't we? One will be here, in this municipality. There is another for the physically disabled that is being built in Boyeros. Children in wheelchairs are not left without teachers because teachers go to their homes to give them classes. However, that child does not have contact with other children. He does not have a social life. That school is complex in its design but it is being built.

The country needs about three of them. There is one for the western part of the country, another one will have to be built in the center of the country. Is this not so, Fernandez? Another one will have to be built in Oriente. How many schools for physically disabled children are needed in the country? [Fernandez response indistinct] Only two. One here and another one in Oriente. He says there is little experience with this. Right?

However, I believe that what we have explained helps in understanding the importance of these schools, helps in understanding the importance of creating room for 80,000 students. We are already working on this throughout the entire country. The one in Havana will be finished first. Think of the peace it will bring to each family. The ideal thing would be for no child to have problems, but who can be certain that a child is not going to have problems?

Of course, nowadays there are techniques for the early detection of some diseases, some life-threatening congenital abnormalities. We already have those services throughout the entire country. Tests are conducted now for all pregnant women. If there is information that there is a serious problem.... [changes thought] Not all problems can be predicted. Who can predict sight or hearing problems? Perhaps science is far away from detecting them early on. [sentence as heard] People can be born with vision problems which are later resolved.

Some are born with heart problems that are resolved. Some cannot be resolved but most of them can. We have our children's cardiovascular surgery center. I was told yesterday, when I went to the William Soler Hospital because of the accident, that they had operated on over 1,200 children since that center was inaugurated and that they had had excellent results. What I want to say is that these schools signify quality education.

We visited six of these schools and the students were there. We talked to six directors and tens of professors and teachers. We visited at least 20 to 25 classrooms. We saw the children there. There are doing very well in those schools. Some are residential facilities such as the ones for the emotionally disturbed. Children recover totally and become normal. This does not mean that they are

going to stay there for 6 years. They can stay an average of 1, 2, or 3 years and completely recover. This is different from the cases of mental retardation. An individual who is mentally retarded is helped a great deal in the school, learns a lot, and turns into a useful citizen. However, some of these problems are irreversible in contrast to emotional disorders, which are reversible. See how important this is? The school turns into a hospital. We inaugurated four of these schools today. I believe that of the 24 [planned] 11 have been built. What would families do with those children if there were no such schools?

The one we inaugurated is for behavioral problems, as it is called. These children have great intellectual potential. They are totally normal, they have normal intelligence. Some of them are very intelligent. I remember when we inaugurated the first one that is called Cuito Cuanavale. The one we inaugurated in Guanabacoa today—it was inaugurated today but it began operating a few months ago—is a terrific school. The children are very well organized there. They are educated well there. A musical group from the Cuito Cuanavale School was already there. It was an excellent musical group.

Now we come here to this school.... [Castro changes thought] It has been operating for some time, it was inaugurated today but it has been operating for a few months. What a great impression any visitor gets from this school!

They have planted a vegetable garden. They have 1 and ½ hectares to produce vegetables, tubers, and some other things, but especially vegetables for the school. Over there are the agricultural facilities. They raise sheep on the premises. The sheep graze but are also taken care of on the premises. They breed rabbits, produce eggs, produce poultry meat on the premises. How impressive are those children on the premises! They rotate the carrying out of these productive activities. They develop a great enthusiasm. I saw the adolescents and children there—they are mostly adolescents—they looked like laborers. They looked like men. They mastered what they were doing. They liked carrying out these activities. We saw the space they had and recommended they expand one of the buildings for egg production and another one for poultry meat. They are almost self-sufficient. They would be totally self-sufficient with two poultry meat buildings and another one for egg-producing hens. If they had two buildings for each, they would not only be self-sufficient, they would also be able to supply another school.

You can see there the pedagogic importance of these facilities. We do not do it for economic purposes because in the end they have to devote time to school. Many of the raw materials have to be imported. We do not see the economic aspect of the children or adolescents producing part of their food; we see the pedagogic effect. I talked to some of them and they told me they were going to study veterinary medicine, others were going to do something else. The vocation for those activities is being created in them. Agriculture is something very important and should not be forgotten. If everyone wants to be something other than a farmer, agricultural producer, I ask myself: How is the population going to be fed?

This is so important. I was so happy to see some of the children from La Lisa and El Cerro thinking about becoming farmers. The phenomenon is reversed. It doesn't mean all they are going to be is farmers. They can be laborers with various skills, in industries, construction, everything. However, it is good that some children.... [Castro changes thought] It is very satisfying for them to be able to be self-sufficient, to help produce what they use. Of course, it helps to have a guaranteed supply source. Those people will never be lacking in eggs, poultry, or rabbit meat. Not only will they never lack these things, but also they will be able to give to someone else. They have a hydroponic garden. I was telling them that 100 percent of the space was not being used. They were also going to put some vertical plants on the left. They may extend a little toward the right. They can put the [word indistinct] at the other side of the fence. In sum, they have made a great impression. The children have made a great impression.

These schools have their own producing workshops. These schools have their own producing agricultural areas. They help with their self-sufficiency and they help other schools. I was saying that this school is worth visiting. Any foreign visitor can be taken to any of them. I remember that when the wife of the French president came to Cuba, I took her to the school for the visually impaired children. That school is also very impressive, in a different sense. You can see the organization, the efficiency, and the teaching methods used there.

It is important that we are opening the school year by inaugurating six schools—as I said, they are not the only ones—six special education schools in the capital. I repeat, they are being built throughout the entire island. They are the idea of the quality we are looking for. When I was talking about quality, I did not mention vocational schools of various types and, especially, the exact sciences vocational schools. Some 40,000 students are enrolled in them in the country.

All of this is turning our country into an educational power. This is very important. This is why we later see science research centers. We see results. We see the anti-meningitis type b vaccine, which is solving a lot of problems in our country and in other countries. We see it in the skin growth treatment, which is being applied to those who were burned in the accident. It has already been applied for some time. Its production is being increased quickly. We see the results in the operations we perform for eyesight diseases. I can't remember the exact name. [Unidentified person says: "retinitis pigmentosa"] What? Retinitis pigmentosa. This is a serious disease. It causes people to lose their sight.

Tens of millions of people in the world suffer from this disease. They first begin to lose their sight. They have

limited vision and later tunnel vision, until finally nothing is left. Total darkness. A doctor in the country has developed a technique to cure this disease. This is the only country in the world with this technique. We need to develop it quickly.

Progress is being made in nerve cell transplants. We are ranked among the top countries in this area because of the work of Comrade Hilda Molina and a group of scientists.

We begin to see the people's training when our country begins to stand out with innovations that do not exist in other countries. This quality is going to translate into a great future for our fatherland. We are encouraging scientific research and the application of science to production and agriculture. The people working in these fields do miracles. We can say that the construction of engineering systems in rice fields almost doubles production per hectare. Of course, we need a number of years to apply this system. We are seeing it in the sugarcane fields; the plot drainage considerably increases production per hectare.

The population grows but land does not. To the contrary, there is always a little less land because we need to build an installation, hospital, factory, railroad, or a road. The population grows and the land's productivity needs to be increased. Science alone can do this. This is why the quality of education is so important. It is so important that our country is becoming an educational power in the same way as it has already become a medical power.

I can assure you that no capitalist country has this. It has some schools for rich people. No highly developed capitalist country has the special education school system we have or the child care center program we have or are creating for the entire population. Only part of the population has it in capitalist countries and the rest gets stuck. If a family has a problem with a child with a physical disability and needs one of those schools, or has any type of problem, or can have the behavioral disorders that are multiplying in that society.... [Castro changes thought] I am not talking about Third World countries. Unfortunately, no Third World country has these institutions. Rich and developed countries do not have these institutions.

If we educate our children and our youth, undoubtedly our fatherland will have a great future. We have to recognize the efforts the mini-brigade members have made in these programs. Mini-brigade members have accumulated many accomplishments. They are mainly boosting this social development. The Construction Ministry [MICONS] is building other installations, industrial and other kinds of installations, large dams, communication centers, large industries. However, the mini-brigade members are boosting this social development.

They have completed the 110 child centers program. They are completing the 20 polyclinics program, which should be completed this year. They are building the special education schools program. They are beginning to build primary and secondary schools to create the conditions I talked about. They have already built the first primary prototype school, and are going to build the secondary school prototype. They are going to build hundreds of those schools in future years. They are boosting the housing program extraordinarily.

They are boosting and carrying out the bakery program which consists of almost 100 bakeries so that the people can have warm bread and an oven almost around the corner from their homes. It was demonstrated that the large industrial production of something as traditional as bread did not guarantee quality. [Speaker: words indistinct] Why are you telling me this? I already know this. [laughter] So you are using me for your propaganda? Let me do it. [laughter] He thought I had forgotten about the rest of the things, but, well, just in case. What you did was to make me lose track of what I was saying abc it something else. [Crowd member says: "bakeries, bakeries"] I was talking about bakeries, about our warm bread program, as we call it, which consists of 95, 100, or 105 bakeries. Mini-brigade workers are building them.

Mini-brigades have helped in the construction of important hospitals. For example, the intensive and intermediate care room of the Salvador Allende Hospital will soon be inaugurated. This is an important installation. They have built many hospital installations, expansions in hospitals.

They built EXPOCUBA, which has already received some 1 million visitors. It has become a recreational and educational center.

As Maximo was saying, afraid they would be forgotten, altogether there will be thousands, and hundreds every year of family doctor house/offices. The doctors' and nurses' house/offices are being built. The construction of these offices is important: 400 of them are being built.

The mini-brigades are now helping out in a colossal work for the Pan-American Games. This is a large project that will also enrich the social resources of the capital: sports, recreation. It will make it possible for our capital to honorably host an important sports events. Above all, the some 2 million residents in the capital—our people, our youth—will have magnificent installations.

The mini-brigades are helping in the construction of central markets. This is a new program. There will be four large markets. One of them is not far from here and one is being constructed. They will make the distribution of produce in the capital more efficient. Four large central markets, which are under construction, will surround the capital. Over 150 farmers markets will also be built. Work is being done on them at this time. They will be ready in a few months. We have asked the mini-brigades to help with these new programs.

The bus terminal program: Three were being built; eight were needed. The five others were scheduled to be built in 1990 and 1991. Well, we are building all of them now to help in the transportation area. In this way, the

mini-brigade movement is making a great effort in the capital, and it will have to continue doing so, especially in regard to constructing houses and repairing houses. There are mini-brigades who build houses and mini-brigades who repair houses.

Maximo, did I forget anything? Do you have anything else? There is always something. I don't know, a service center, and perhaps even a movie theater. When new houses are built, buildings for social activities need to be built.

I wanted to acknowledge the effort the mini-brigade movement is making. Of course, this acknowledgement is not totally gratuitous. I hope they fulfill their plan, their promise to complete the 24 schools this year. I hope we will be able to inaugurate them in January with students and all. I hope they will complete the polyclinics that are left so that we can inaugurate all of them in January. I hope that they do not lower their guard, that they do not lose heart, that their morale does not weaken, and that they do not become soft. All the new things we could not do before are being done thanks to the mini-brigades.

Yes, Maximo, there was something else. The mini-brigades have helped extraordinarily in the building of construction material industries. You see? My computer has more data. [laughter] They have helped to build various kinds of tile factories. Of course, we cannot make progress without materials. What stops us is the lack of materials, but we are producing more and more. We just invested $15 million to increase capabilities, to modernize, remodel, or rebuild the Artemisa cement factory.

Next year, the Artemisa cement factory will have to close for over a month because of all the equipment that is needed, and a great contingent will have to do everything that needs to be done within 2 months. That monster cannot close for over 2 months or else we will all come to a standstill. The Artemisa factory is making a great effort and producing more. It will be expanded in the future. It will produce 400,000 more tons with this investment, this great investment; $15 million are $15 million of convertible currency.[as heard] We will have more cement.

Sand and stone quarries are being completed. La Molina is being built. A brigade is building it. A contingent brigade did the earthwork. A MICONS enterprise is doing another one. They are being built quickly to get 600,000 more cubic meters of stone and sand. El Purio stone mill has already begun to produce. A contingent built it in record time. The trains that will transport the sand are already being prepared.

Work is being done in Victoria Cuatro, southeast of the capital, for 300,000 more cubic meters of sand. A large brick factory is being completed. Perhaps it will be able to produce up to 50 million bricks, maybe tens of millions of bricks. The construction material industry continues to be boosted. Progress is being made at Antillana de Acero. We will have more steel.

However, there is something more important. Progress is being made in the saving of cement. There has been a world of progress since 1965 to date. From over 700 kg of cement per cubic meter of concrete, we are now around 450. Almost 300 cubic meters of cement are being saved per cubic meter of ton [corrects himself] 300 kg of cement per cubic meter of concrete. This means that today we almost make 2 cubic meters of concrete with the cement that we used to make only 1 cubic meter. It is harder. It is not the cement that makes it hard. Too much cement affects the concrete's quality. It should have the right proportion. This is very important.

By saving, we have products that require new cement production lines. In addition, we are getting new cement production lines. We are building them. We will continue to expand our cement industry.

We used to produce 28 cubic meters of wood, [corrects himself] 28 cubic meters of concrete per cubic meter of wood. The wood was chopped off everywhere. By saving, preserving wood, using boards, the MICONS has already reached 45 cubic meters. I don't know how the mini-brigade members are doing. We may get to 90. If 100,000 cubic meters are turned into 300,000 cubic meters of wood, we can now do with 100,000 what we used to do with 300,000. This is very important because it is very difficult to get additional amounts of wood. We have to stretch it out by saving, multiply the productivity of wood in construction.

Our country is also going to produce some tens of thousands of additional cubic meters of wood from the trees the revolution planted. Now we have to multiply each cubic meter of wood by three. So, construction will continue to increase.

We can carry out all the ambitious plans we intend to carry out. The contingents are multiplying. There are 30,000 men working in contingents with great productivity. Contingents do twice as much as was traditionally done in our country with half the people. They also do it quickly. They complete projects. They execute them with quality. So, construction will continue to increase considerably and we will be able to have the houses we need in a certain number of years. We will be able to have all the schools and all the installations we need.

Construction is essential for the development of the country, essential for industries and agriculture, and for economic and social development. This school needed a certain amount of cement, stone, sand, wood, steel, furniture, equipment, everything. We had to build it. We need it very much. I am sure that our construction capability will increase considerably in the next few years and our people will be able to receive the benefits of this huge effort.

This capability needs to be improved even more. It should be even more efficient. I use the word Zoilo [not further identified] used. Teachers should work with the contingent spirit. The idea is the contingent spirit. Working in this way, we can accelerate our development a great deal.

All that is left for me is to congratulate today all the education workers, all the students, all the families that have had the pleasure of sending their children to the various types of schools, to congratulate our young students. Let's hope that next year we do not only talk about six new schools, about eight new schools—which is what we have—but that we can soon talk about 24 special education schools and about all of the ones that are being built in the rest of the country.

Fatherland or death, we will win! [Crowd shouts: "We will win!"] [applause]

Panama's Situation, U.S. Actions Considered

PA1109002889 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 6 Sep 89

["Our America" commentary by Manolo Ortega]

[Text] A provisional government was installed in Panama a few days ago and its mission is to call for general elections in 6 months. Nevertheless, the new authorities are also the target of the U.S. administration's displeasure; the United States adamantly refuses to recognize any political action from that isthmian nation. The undeniable intention of the U.S. for the past 2 years has been to install in Panama a government that favors its strategic interests—and it has resorted to all kinds of measures to attain this goal.

The Bush administration is now openly trying to cause an armed conflict in Panamanian territory to justify direct intervention, because its ferocious political intervention in Panama's internal affairs has failed to attain the expected results. It is appropriate to mention that, although ill-contrived, the provoking pretext could be extremely dangerous because it could involve other nations, given that Panama is part of the international community—which cannot remain idle in case the threatening Yankee invasion occurs. It is also logical to recall that the increased U.S. actions are mainly designed to achieve annulment of the Torrijos-Carter treaties, which state that the canal will be placed under Panama's jurisdiction in 2000.

The U.S. Government has many irons in the fire: it has stepped up its campaign of provocations, withdrawn its ambassador to Panama—urged other nations to do likewise—and sowed mistrust everywhere concerning future general relations, thus preparing the groundwork for another annulment. Direct aggression against a Latin American country may be dangerous for all the others, not only due to their proximity, because the Yankee boot can soil another nation's territory under other pretexts. The destabilizing actions and provocations of the U.S. in Panama must therefore stop.

It would be advisable to insist that if Washington imposes its will in Panama today, it could do the same somewhere else tomorrow. Countries and their rulers would be exposed to intervention simply because the United States does not like the country's authorities. The interventionist attitude of the White House must stop for the sake of Panamana's democracy and self-determination, so that it does not become a threatening precedent for other nations in the Latin American community.

Havana Cites CNN Report Criticizing TV Marti

FL0809163289 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 8 Sep 89

[Text] The television service, CNN, has reported that U.S. President George Bush is now planning a war of words against Cuba by using a U.S. Government funded television station, [passage indistinct] that the plan violates laws, CNN added, in a report it carried on the anti-Cuban television station. CNN recalled that the U.S. Broadcasting Association opposes the project because, as it predicts, its signals could interfere with commercial airwaves in U.S. territory, especially in Florida. The association also fears that a Cuban response could generate even greater interference.

Preliminary Report on Airline Crash Issued

FL0809155889 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 8 Sep 89

[Text] The state committee that is investigating the causes of the fatal plane accident that occurred at the Jose Marti International Airport last Sunday [4 Sep] has issued a preliminary report which says: During these past 4 days, the commission analyzed one by one the possible causes of the accident, and with help of witnesses to the event, recordings of conversations of the control tower with the crew and vice versa, documents of the plane, and the deciphering of two of the three registers, or black boxes, that were found, the following has been determined:

First, it was determined that all the equipment of the IL-62 plane—engines, backups, etc.—functioned properly during this last flight. This plane was the newest we had. It was built 8 months ago, had been used for 7 months, and had only 1,300 hours of flight time out of the 20,000 which is its capability [recursos].

Second, the possibility of sabotage is discarded, since there is no indication of an explosion, or fire aboard. This data has been confirmed by eyewitnesses, recordings of the crew, and the information in the black box, in addition to the analysis made of the fuel and oil used for this flight.

Third, a review was made of the condition of the runway, lights, and communications and nothing abnormal was found.

Fourth, the plan for the balancing of the plane's load was examined carefully. Looking at how the load was distributed, nothing abnormal was detected.

Fifth, the medical commission reviewed how the physical exams of the crew were carried out before the flight, and it also reviewed the results of the exams which showed everything was in order. Furthermore, each one

of the crew's flight licenses for flight were reviewed and were found to be current. The captain of that flight, (Armando Liveros Arguelles) had been a pilot for 29 years, and had 13,116 hours of flight time; of those hours, 6,761 were in an IL-62.

From all that analysis, it is deduced that the factors indicated above were not influential in the accident, and the conclusion was arrived at that there are two fundamental causes which, together, caused the catastrophic accident.

First cause, metereological conditions suddenly worsened in the eastern area of the runway and affected the front part of it. Approximately 1 hour before lift-off, about 1800 [2200 GMT], an unfavorable change in weather started approximately 8 or 10 km east of the location where the plane crashed. This storm began to move toward the runway with rains that were getting heavier, gusting winds of 30 to 40 km per hour—although the direction of these winds was forward, it would not cause problems for takeoff. This is a type of cumulonimbus storm which occurs frequently in our country during this time of year. In its center, there are descending and ascending wind currents of great velocity, approximately 50 to 100 km per hour. These winds currents are known as vertical shearing (cizalladura vertical) winds. They are a serious danger for a plane at low altitudes, in lift-off as well as in landing, because they can cause the plane to hit the ground. The International Civil Aeronautics Organization has reported in the last few years 18 plane accidents were caused by this phenomenon, vertical shearing. In seven of those cases, 575 persons died. The commission believes, and the black boxes confirm, that the IL-62, during its lift-off, faced a meteorological phenomenon of this type.

Secondly, because of the atmospheric condition that was moving toward the runway from the east at the time of lift-off, the airport was at an operational minimum—according to aviation terms. Under these conditions, in accordance to what has been established, the captain of the airplane has the prerogative of either carrying out or postponing the lift-off. The captain of the IL-62 decided to lift-off, using these prerogatives, feeling confident of his experience and of the new plane he manned [as heard]. However, the commission believes that his decision was not correct. In other words, the second main cause of the catastrophic accident was that the decision to lift-off was made under difficult meteorological conditions, with the belief that an accident could be avoided, and underestimating the risk.

The first phase of liftoff occurred as the rain and wind variations intensified. This caused the aircraft to fly at greater angles than what is allowed. At that same time, the aircraft suffered the direct effects of descending wind currents, vertical shearing. The crew began to carry out actions to counteract the effects caused by the meteorological conditions, thus committing imprecise actions which aggravated the situation of the flight. Among those actions, the most important one was the decision to move the flaps [preceding word in English] from the position of 30 degrees to 15 degrees at an altitude of 49 meters—apparently this was done with the intention of increasing speed. However, this action diminished the plane's ability to continue gaining altitude. The plane continued climbing only up to 53 meters in altitude, followed by a decrease in its lift [sustentacion]. This, in conjunction with the currents that were affecting the plane, caused it to lose altitude until it first crashed at the end of the eastern runway, and then into the navigation antenna. The plane then travelled to a small elevated area, next to Boyeros Avenue, which served as a sort of springboard that elevated and moved it approximately 250 meters, until the aircraft crashed on land in a populated area. Thus, it destroyed tens of houses in the northern part of the outskirts of the town of Boyeros.

These are the results obtained in the investigation of the state commission. We feel they are preliminary conclusions, until the black box that was sent to the USSR is deciphered. However, we think that, keeping in mind the content of its data, which duplicate and summarize the other black boxes, it should not provide data which would significantly contradict what this report contains. Whether or not this is the case, these preliminary conclusions would be final, or the changes would be analyzed. Then, at the appropriate time, in approximately 10 days, the final conclusions will be issued for national and international opinion.

Signed the president and the members of the state commission.

Reportage of Cuban Withdrawal From Ethiopia

100 Soldiers Fly Home

AB0809162889 Paris AFP in English 1206 GMT 8 Sep 89

[By Seyoum Ayele]

[Excerpt] Addis Ababa, Sept 8 (AFP)—The first 100 soldiers out of the remaining Cuban contingent in Ethiopia were flown home aboard a military plane Friday, the Cuban Embassy in Addis Ababa said.

The pullout, which marks the end of the 12-year Cuban military presence in Ethiopia, followed the announcement by the country's Armed Forces Ministry in Havana on Thursday.

It came a day earlier than expected however, though Cuban diplomats would not say how many soldiers were involved in the evacuation, or give a schedule for their departure.

Addis Ababa invited the Cubans into the country in 1977 to lend combat support during the Ogaden War with Somalia, when the country was also being torn apart by civil war stemming from rebellion in the north and counter-revolution in the interior.

The first batch to be flown out Friday were seen off by Cuban Ambassador Antonio Perez Herrero and Cuban military officers, one diplomat said.

There has been no word from the Ethiopian authorities on the withdrawal, and the Cuban diplomat said he could not say whether any government officials were present at the departure ceremony as he did not personally attend. [passage omitted]

First Troops Depart

FL0809125589 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1232 GMT 8 Sep 89

[Text] The first group of Cuban military personnel concluding its internationalist mission in Ethiopia has left Addis Ababa today en route to Havana.

The initial contingent, consisting of over 150 combatants to be followed by other contingents in subsequent days, has been decorated with the Cuba-Ethiopia Victory Medal. This decoration is granted for the first time by the Council of State of the Republic of Cuba.

The internationalist combatants were bid farewell at the Addis Ababa airport by Antonio Perez Herrero, Cuban ambassador to Ethiopia, and by General [rank as heard] Manuel Perez Hernandez, chief of the Cuban mission in Ethiopia.

Castro Receives Returning Troops

FL0909115389 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1102 GMT 9 Sep 89

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has received at the Jose Marti Airport the first internationalist combatants who are returning to the fatherland from the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. The [words indistinct] 1252 landed at 0125 [0525 GMT] with the Cubans aboard who went to defend the sovereignty and dignity of the Ethiopian people—in keeping with a consistent attitude of revolutionary principles.

Commander in Chief Fidel Castro shook the hands of each one of the combatants who, among other awards, were wearing the Cuba-Ethiopia Victory Medal, which was instituted by the Council of State.

Lieutenant Colonel Jorge Lopez Leon, chief of the troops, after expressing satisfaction for the mission that was fulfilled, said to Radio Reloj that what impressed him the most when he arrived in the fatherland was shaking Fidel's hand.

Happy to be back home, the internationalists expressed their love and solidarity for the brother country of Ethiopia. Ricardo Alfonso Miraval, representative of a [words indistinct] said with great emotion: We were the fist that prevented an invasion of the Somali troops. He then added that it has also been a great experience for Cuban combatants.

Council of State Approves Medal

FL0909010189 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 8 Sep 89

[Text] The Cuba-Ethiopia Victory Medal has been instituted by Republic of Cuba Council of State Decree No 116. This award now forms part of our nation's Medal and honorary title system.

The document, which was signed by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz, president of the Council of State, states that the Medal is a moral acknowledgement of the just conduct of men of very diverse ages who, from the beginning of the triumph of the Ethiopian revolution to the present, have fulfilled their internationalist duties bravely.

This award will be given to members of the Revolutionary Armed Forces who are: on active duty, activated reserves, or retired personnel. It will also be awarded to those Cubans who, in their capacity as internationalists, actively participated alongside the Armed Forces of the People's Republic of Ethiopia while defending their national integrity.

PCC, State Officials Receive Angolan Combatants

FL0909011389 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 8 Sep 89

[Text] A new group of internationalist combatants arrived in our nation today after fulfilling their mission in the People's Republic of Angola.

The over 160 returning combatants were greeted at the airport by Jose Ramon Fernandez, alternate member of the Communist Party of Cuba Politburo; Brigade General Lino Carreras Rodriguez, and other chiefs and officers of the Revolutionary Armed Forces and Ministry of the Interior.

Also present at the airport were political [words indistinct] leaders. Of the combatants who arrived on this flight, 112 of them were awarded the Internationalist Combatant Medal, first class, and 59 of them were awarded the second class medal. Also, 5 of the combatants were awarded the Defense of Cuito Cuanavale Medal, and 42 were given the Distinguished Service Medal. In addition to this, one earned the Calixto Garcia Medal, and all bear the Cuba-Angola Victory Medal.

Two Men Arrested in 'Clandestine' Carpentry Shop

FL0809155289 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 2230 GMT 7 Sep 89

[Police report]

[Text] Members of the National Department Against Economic Crimes have seized a clandestine carpentry shop in a vacant premise next to the home of the main defendant, Fernando Ferrer Velazquez, who lives in 568 Neptuno St, between Lealtad and Campanario Streets, Centro Habana Municipality. According to National

Revolutionary Police [PNR] reports, the accused manufactured all types of furniture. Three finished cabinets and three double beds were seized during the search. A large amount of wood of different sizes of questionable origin was also seized in addition to sheets of cardboard, plywood, and formica; equipment; and other furniture all valued in over 3,000 pesos.

According to the investigation, police authorities were able to confirm that Ferrer Velazquez, using a license issued by the People's Government authorizing him to make minor repairs, took advantage of this and started to perform large jobs with the intention of making a profit. Citizen Rolando Diaz Cardenas was also arrested together with the main author of this illegal economic crime. Diaz Cardenas worked in the shop illegally for a certain amount of money.

For now, the two charged men are detained at the second PNR municipal unit. The PNR investigation department continues with the appropriate investigation of this criminal act. As soon as it is completed, the accused men will be presented to the tribunal that will judge and sanction them, in line with the current penal code.

Dominican Republic

Communist Party Member Dies Fighting in El Salvador

PA1009211789 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1724 GMT 8 Sep 89

[Text] Santo Domingo, 8 Sep (EFE)—Roberto Santana Rojas, a member of the Dominican Communist Party [PCD], has died while serving as a volunteer in the Salvadoran guerrilla group Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN], it was reported today.

According to PCD Secretary General Narciso Isa Conde, the 26-year-old Santana Rojas was killed on 3 September while fighting in the Southeastern Front, in Usulutan Department.

Isa Conde reported that the communist militant, who left a year ago to fight in El Salvador as a volunteer guerrilla fighter, had belonged to the Dominican Navy.

The communist leader explained that the body of Santana Rojas "will not be brought to the Dominican Republic for the time being, because he was killed in an area under the control of the Salvadoran Army." Santana Rojas is the third PCD member to die in El Salvador over the past 3 years.

Jamaica

Manley Says Relations With Panama Not Broken

FL0809204089 Bridgetown CANA in English 1935 GMT 8 Sep 89

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Sept 8, CANA—Prime Minister Michael Manley on Friday said that Jamaica has not broken diplomatic relations with Panama; it just withdrew recognition of the government.

"Jamaica has not broken diplomatic relations with Panama, but we will not recognise the puppet government that General Noriega put in place on September 1 in defiance of the wishes of his own people and of the OAS (Organisation of American States)", Manley said at a press conference .

The press here had viewed the government action as a diplomatic break.

Jamaica first voiced concern over the cancellation of recent elections independent analysts said the Panamanian opposition had won. It went a step further after strongman Antonio Noriega announced a government headed by his supporters after the OAS had been trying to resolve the political crisis.

The Jamaica Government's stand, according to Manley, will not affect the thousands of informal commercial importers who flock to Panama to buy goods to sell in Jamaica. The government will not be withdrawing its mission from Panama, he reported.

Until the wishes of the Panamanian people are satisfied relations with Panama will remain "cool", Manley said.

Trinidad and Tobago

Assassination Attempt Made on President

FL0909155589 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1230 GMT 9 Sep 89

[Text] The wife of Trinidad's president has nearly escaped injury in a gun attack on her husband's car. Zayalar Hassanali, the wife of President Noor Hassanali was nearly hit by one of the bullets fired by gunmen who sprayed her husband's limousine with submachinegun fire.

The attack was an apparent assassination attempt on Mr Hassanali, a retired Supreme Court judge. The president was not in the car at the time of the shooting, and it is not certain if he was the intended target.

President's Wife Escapes Injury

PA0909051689 Paris AFP in Spanish 0434 GMT 9 Sep 89

[Text] Port-of-Spain, 8 Sep (AFP)—In a speech at the parliament today, Raymond Robinson, prime minister of Trinidad and Tobago, has promised to arrest those responsible for the "murderous attack" on 7 September against President Noor Hassanali's car.

Several armed men opened fire on the presidential caravan when Hassanali's wife, Zalayhar, returned to her home on 7 September night. Mrs Hassanali was unhurt, but one of her bodyguards was badly injured, the government radio station reported.

In his speech, Robinson announced that the police inquiry had begun.

Joseph Toney, minister in charge of justice and security, told a local radio station: "I have no idea what the shooters had in mind."

Mrs Hassanali was returning home after she offered her condolences to a family when unidentified men opened fire at her car with an Ak-47 automatic rifle near the Port-of-Spain botanical garden, the government radio station reported.

The president was at his home at the time of the attack, the station also said.

Hassanali, a former Supreme Court judge, was designated president in 1987.

Visiting Japanese Prime Minister on Panama

PA0809154489 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0405 GMT 6 Sep 89

[Text] Mexico City, 5 Sep (DPA)—Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu today urged "fair and free" elections in Panama so that the Panamanian people can elect a "legitimate" government.

He also supported the peace efforts that are being made in Central America and promised that Japan will support the region's reconstruction when peace is restored.

At a news conference, the Japanese prime minister said that Panama and Central America were among the subjects he discussed with Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari on the 2d day of his official visit to Mexico.

"We agree that Panama's democratic system should be restored," Kaifu told reporters in response to a question about his government's position on the new Panamanian regime headed by Francisco Rodriguez.

Regarding the Central American crisis, Kaifu said that Japan "is very pleased and satisfied over the latest progress" that has been made toward solving the conflicts in the area.

The Japanese head of government, who has been in Mexico since Monday, also advocates "a joint effort" between creditors and debtors to solve the developing countries' foreign debt problem.

He praised Salinas' efforts to successfully make structural changes in his country and to control inflation.

He reiterated that his government will continue to support Mexico financially and to contribute to help solve the pollution problem in Mexico City.

Regarding financial aid, the prime minister recalled that Japan granted Mexico $1.3 million in loans over the past 2 years to repurchase some of Mexico's debt within the framework of the Brady plan.

Regarding the pollution situation in Mexico City, he said that the Mexican Government presented 15 projects that are being studied for financing.

According to a Mexican Foreign Secretariat communique, Kaifu met with Salinas for 1 hour this afternoon and congratulated the Mexican president for his government's successful negotiation to reduce the foreign debt.

The Japanese leader, who assumed office 1 month ago and had previously visited the United States, said that he chose Mexico as part of his first tour abroad because it is "a country with a strategic position in the world."

Government Supports Colombia in Antidrug Effort

PA0709171089 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 1 Sep 89 p 2

[Report by Fernando Ramirez de Aguilar L.]

[Text] Mexican Attorney General Enrique Alvarez del Castillo said that President Carlos Salinas de Gortari had expressed Mexico's full support for and solidarity with the actions of the Colombian Government and people to confront the serious problem of drug trafficking and its desire to cooperate in these efforts. Alvarez del Castillo spoke yesterday at the closing ceremony of the first preparatory meeting for the 8th International Conference on Drug Control being held in a Mexico City hotel.

Representatives from the Bahamas, Belize, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, the United States, and Mexico were present at the meeting. Alvarez del Castillo also told them that drug trafficking is a very serious international problem "and is no longer simply a health problem or one of individual behavioral disorder, as it has become an all-encompassing social evil and a genuine state problem."

The attorney general was interviewed after the meeting and asserted that Mexico had taken several measures to prevent disbanded Colombian drug traffickers from moving their operations to Mexico. He added that the government of Carlos Salinas de Gortari "was conducting an all-out war against drug trafficking with the support and backing of the Mexican people."

He was asked if there was any danger that the Colombian situation could occur in Mexico. Alvarez del Catillo responded that fortunately, the situations in both countries were different. If, however, Mexicans were confronted with aggression similar to what is presently being experienced by Colombia, they would even consider it an attack on their profound nationalism and respond with "Mexicans to the cry of war...."

He did concede that drug trafficking had ravaged the Mexican economy, basically, its agriculture sector. He added that there are very positive perspectives for stopping and erradicating drug trafficking on a medium-term and long-term basis.

A U.S. reporter insisted: Sir, can Mexico become another Colombia? The attorney general was annoyed with the question and replied: "Lady, it is easier for that to happen in your country."

In his speech at the closing ceremony of the meeting prior to 8th International Control Conference, the attorney general stated that Mexico's position, at several international forums on the subject, has been that drug trafficking and drug dependency are inseparable and should be given the same treatment.

He added: "We are convinced that direct, continued, and firm work with youths, students, parents, teachers, and all sectors of society cannot be substituted for by any government organization."

Javier Coello Trejo, deputy attorney general for the investigation and struggle against drug trafficking, presided over the meeting and summarized the meeting's conclusions as follows:

There is a need to join efforts and build a common and effective front, based on international solidarity and collective responsibility principles, to combat drug traffic. The struggle against drug trafficking must be permanent and given priority in each country's government program. There is a need to take actions to stop crimes against public health. These include actions that go from actions against the planning and financing of drug trafficking to using drugs and drug-related substances.

Furthermore, it was agreed at the meeting that the countries in the region would take concerted actions, as drug trafficking is an international crime; that the legislative and institutional reforms made by different countries to combat this type of crime are to be noted; that joint efforts are to be made to promote the development of the family, culture, society, and economy; and that there is a need to join efforts and form a common front.

Salinas Announces Overhaul of Tax System

PA0909134389 Mexico City THE NEWS in English 2 Sep 89 p 1

[Report by Franciso J. Siller]

[Text] Guadalajara—President Carlos Salinas de Gortari announced Friday an in-depth overhaul of the current tax system, featuring a "more equitable and transparent" spread of the taxpayer base.

Salinas presided over the closing of the 20th National Meeting of Fiscal Revenue Officials, asking them for constant fiscal efforts to get a steady and effective contribution from all Mexicans for "construction of a grand, free and fair nation."

He called for an increase in tax participation by the states to "maintain an effective and ambitious decentralization including not only the simple transfer of power, decisions and administration," but also the resources for promoting development of health and education.

Speaking to state treasurers, the President said fiscal modernization seeks "to create financially stronger states with increased capacity and responsibility so that they may consequently resolve their needs and give a better response to the people's aspirations."

Salinas reported that non-oil income increased 15 percent in the first half of the year.

He told the meeting that public finances gauge the economic health of the nation as a whole and that their health level opens perspectives for a lasting and non-inflationary economic recovery. "Bolstering tax collection administration in states and municipalities is indispensable, because it entails a major potential for sustaining increased treasury efficiency and better attention to their responsibilities," the President said.

Salinas attended the meeting as part of a two-day tour of Jalisco State. Just before he returned to Mexico City, he learned that about 100 students and faculty of the University of Guadalajara had seized the administrative offices of the main campus, in protest over what they termed the university's "dictatorial regime."

Meanwhile, Finance Secretary Pedro Aspe Armella told the meeting that "we are of the conviction that it is essential to reinforce fiscal efforts and make Mexicans aware of the fact that paying taxes lends energy to Mexico and contributes to the national effort."

President Salinas Discusses End of Subsidies

PA0909002789 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 26 Aug 89 pp 1-A, 10-A

[Report by Humberto Aranda on statements by President Carlos Salinas de Gortari during the inauguration of the 110th National Assembly of the Confederation of Mexican Workers in Mexico City on 25 August]

[Text] Mexican President Salinas de Gortari said on 25 August that Mexico will not subsidize ineffectiveness in the public or private sectors any longer. Similarly, President Salinas said that the government will no longer subsidize programs that do not contribute to a general improvement of the community's wellbeing.

Salinas made the above statements during the inauguration of the 110th National Assembly of the CTM [Confederation of Mexican Workers]. Later at Los Pinos [presidential residence], the president and the CTM leaders reconfirmed the "indestructible alliance between the government and the workers."

Labor congress President Cecilio Salas said that "in view of the current labor situation, it is necessary to stress the importance of dialogue, which strengthens social agreement."

During the inauguration of the CTM assembly, held at the Fernando Amilpa Auditorium, Salinas de Gortari said that with the elimination of subsidies for businessmen, the government would have available resources to invest in nonstrategic, decentralized, parastate enterprises and that the government would redefine its functions. In addition, with that measure the state will help the Mexican people more effectively and would provide more investment, better education, and improved housing, security, and food.

Salinas clarified that the resources obtained from the debt renegotiation would not be used to susidize the

economy's ineffectiveness, but to create productive jobs and to improve the wellbeing of those who have less.

In that context, Salinas said that the ineffectiveness of the public, strategic, and priority institutions will not be subsidized. We will not deny them the support they will need, but those enterprises will have to increase their productivity and effectiveness and to move at the pace of the country's general economic recovery. Those enterprises will receive resources in accordance with their role in the economy.

The Mexican president said: "We will correct the faults of our financial structure. But we will not do so at random or by affecting social rights, and much less the achievements that the Mexican popular groups have attained with so many efforts and sacrifices.

Salinas announced that the process of decentralization of parastate, nonstrategic, and nonpriority parastate enterprises will give Mexican workers an opportunity to provide capital for those enterprises, and thus receive additional revenues.

The assembly of the CTM headed by Fidel Velasquez was inaugurated by President Salinas de Gortari at 1100 25 August at the Fernando Amilpa Auditorium. Government Secretary Fernando Gutierrez Barrios, Labor Secretary Arsenio Farell Cubillas, Federal District Department Chief Manuel Camacho Solis accompanied President Salinas to the CTM assembly.

The Mexican president said that the debt renegotiation, alone, does not guarantee future progress. Salinas added that the resources freed by the debt renegotiation could be used in two ways:

The first would be to subsidize the economy's ineffectiveness, which would promote demand abruptly and consequently cause a sudden and devastating tendency to increase prices excessively.

The second way would be to invest the said resources in the areas that the people demand, which are basically the creation of productive jobs and the promotion of the wellbeing of those who have less.

Salinas de Gortari referred to some Latin American countries, which after having successfully started economic stabilization programs then sat back, slackened their efforts, continued to subsidize ineffectiveness; and the results of their programs went backward.

At present, some of those countries see their inflation rates go up from 200 percent a year to 800,000 percent a year.

Salinas stressed that in Mexico "we will never experience that situation." He mentioned that in the past we reached a 200 percent inflation rate and that the PECE [Economic Growth and Stability Pact], will help us lower that rate to 17 percent, which is the lowest inflation rate in the last 10 years.

Salinas insisted that in Mexico we cannot waste our resources subsidizing unproductiveness, because we would spark off a process of fiscal imbalance, which would promote inflation.

Although stating that "state resources are not enough to fulfill everybody's needs," Salinas said that there are essential duties the government must fulfill, including the people's requests the president has received during his tours throughout the country. The Mexican people have demanded that President Salinas provide them with drinkable water, schools, water systems, health centers, houses, and more jobs.

Salinas said: "We would be amazed by how many of those social demands we could fulfill with the resources that are now invested in enterprises that are neither productive nor priority."

Salinas said that the fulfillment of the Mexican people's basic, social demands is a just and sovereign act, because it represents the state's and society's ability to guarantee the nation's independence.

The Mexican president also said that a modern state must meet its obligations to guarantee the country's sovereignty and to give added protection to those who have less by eliminating public subsidies, ineffectiveness, and the promotion of programs that do not promote the community's wellbeing in a general manner.

Salinas stated that the current economic opening allows the state to stop subsidizing businessmen and to reinforce its actions in favor of the Mexican people. "We will do that by investing more resources in food programs and in education, housing, and security projects. In that way, we will forge a truly revolutionary state and a better generation of Mexicans. By being fairer, Mexico will be more independent and stronger," Salinas said.

In addition, yesterday afternoon President Salinas met with Labor Congress leaders at Los Pinos presidential residence. President Salinas had lunch with them in a "friendly and pleasant" atmosphere.

Labor Congress President Cecilio Salas said he is convinced that agreement is very important in the attempts to make concerted efforts, in employer-employee relations, and in the historic alliance between the state and the labor movement.

During the meeting held in the Carranza Room, Salas added: "We, the labor leaders, fully believe that President Salinas de Gortari can turn dialogue and concerted efforts into mechanisms that could reconcile interests and prevent confrontations."

Cecilio Salas also said that "in these times of great responsibility before the serious problems we are facing, unity is a heritage we must protect and strengthen. If we are united, we will find the strength we need to get our country out of its economic indebtedness."

CTM Secretary General Fidel Velasquez; Francisco Hernandez representing the Mexican telephone company labor union; Napoleon Gomez representing the miners' union; Elba Esther Carrillo representing the Education Workers National Labor Union; and Ignacio Lopez Tarso representing the National Actors Association participated in the lunchon meeting with President Salinas de Gortari.

In addition, Labor Secretary Arsenio Farell Cubillas, Commerce Secretary Jaime Serra Puche, Agriculture Secretary Jorge de la Vega Dominguez, and Presidency Coordination Office Chief Jose Montoya, also attended the luncheon.

Political Opposition Parties Form Alliance

PA0909132789 Mexico City THE NEWS in English 1 Sep 89 p 2

[Text] The center left political parties will form an alliance to fight the economic policies of the current regime.

The new alliance will constitute the second biggest power block in the Chamber of Deputies.

At a press conference Thursday it was announced that the leftist front includes the Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD), the Social Democratic Party (PDS), the Popular Socialist Party (PPS), and the group of eight deputies that had broken off from the Cardenista Front for National Reconstruction (FCRN).

They said that within hours, the Authentic Party of the Mexican Revolution (PARM) would be joining the alliance. In total, the new power block will include 112 legislators compared to the 263 seats held by the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) and the 101 representatives of the National Action Party (PAN).

These same parties had formed the National Democratic Front (FDN) that had put forward Cuauhtemoc Cardenas, current leader of the PRD, as their candidate for the presidential elections of July 1988. The FDN was dissolved at the beginning of this year.

Baja California Slated as Free Trade Zone

PA0909135889 Mexico City THE NEWS in English 2 Sep 89 p 31

[Text] The entire Baja California peninsula will be declared an integral free-trade-zone this month, said the Baja California South state governor Victor Liceaga. He explained that though the peninsula is already a free-trade-zone, the Mexican federal government still imposes restrictions such as import quotas and permits for a myriad of goods.

El Salvador

Vice President Merino Escapes Ambush Unharmed

PA0909041489 Paris AFP in Spanish 0333 GMT 9 Sep 89

[Text] Metapan, El Salvador, 9 Sep (AFP)—Salvadoran Vice President Francisco Merino escaped unharmed from an attack tonight when the motorcade he was traveling in was ambushed by a guerrilla column near Metapan, 105 km to the west of San Salvador, according to AFP.

Merino was returning from a meeting with his Guatemalan and Honduran colleagues at the Guatemalan town of Esquipulas when he was attacked.

A soldier was killed in the attack that took place at 0015 GMT, according to what the AFP reporter accompanying the vice president's motorcade witnessed.

When the official motorcade approached the Guajoyo Hydroelectric Plant, guerrilla groups opened fire.

When the shots started, Merino jumped from his armored vehicle with an automatic rifle and took up a position along the roadside until the attack ended.

After the guerrillas ended the attack, Merino returned to Metapan, where he was taken to the capital in an Air Force helicopter, according to the press.

Last April, Merino's home in San Salvador was the target of a dynamite attack which caused property damage.

President Cristiani Addresses Nation 9 Sep

PA0909033389 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 0201 GMT 9 Sep 89

[Address to the nation by President Alfredo Cristiani marking his 100th day in office, in San Salvador—live]

[Text] Good evening, Salvadoran people. This date marks the first 100 days of my administration. It falls in September, when all of us Salvadorans must be full of nationalist sentiments, when we must find inspiration in our status as Salvadorans and thus be able—all of us—to feel the patriotic fervor which our homeland now demands.

We had a very pleasant experience this morning while passing through the Malaga development on our way to work. We saw a parade of schoolchildren who were marking the month of our independence. It was a pretty picture of blue and white, with children who carried pom-poms and little flags. The joy they felt was noticeable. Perhaps, despite their young age, they are already increasingly perceiving that our homeland needs moral and civic values because of the crisis it is experiencing. Therefore, I would like to ask you to reflect this month on the fact that our homeland needs all of us. Let us repeat the slogan: Let us all be united for El Salvador's sake.

Unfortunately, our country is experiencing a very deep crisis in all areas. Our government has inherited a homeland that is sick with a cancer that is an armed conflict which has been bleeding us for almost 10 years, with an economy that was increasingly heading toward an abyss, with a great deal of corruption, and—what is even worse—with a social situation that is very dramatic because almost one-third of all Salvadorans are living in extreme poverty.

We find ourselves in this situation because of this armed conflict and poor economic and social policies in the past. It is these four [as heard] key aspects which my government has decided to tackle and try to solve within our current possibilities. That is why, attaching the required importance to the hope for peace which all of us Salvadorans harbor, on 1 June we made an appeal to sit down and engage in an uninterrupted process of dialogue in order to seek this peace which the Salvadoran people long for and wish for so much. We have been working in this context. We have talked with many sectors about the need for all of us to build peace in El Salvador, and for all of us to feel that we are part of the peace-making process.

Also, when I attended the meeting of presidents in Tela, Honduras, at all times I kept in mind that we, the presidents of the five Central American countries, should—at the Central American level—also make an effort to achieve peace in El Salvador. We should not talk only about other matters and overlook this very serious problem. And all of us should head toward peace—even at a regional level.

I am very pleased tonight to once again inform the Salvadoran people that the first step has been taken, and that we are about to begin—I hope—a peace process with the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN], which will begin on 12 and 13 September.

I hope the FMLN has the goodwill to give the Salvadoran people the peace they deserve. That, as you must be aware, is our task. The government has imposed on itself the task of seeking peace and calm for the Salvadorans through every means possible.

However, there are other issues to which the government has devoted 24 hours of the day and 7 days of the week in order to resolve them. I said at the beginning of this speech that I inherited a country with a declining economy that was growing increasingly worse. I inherited a very dramatic national economic situation, and a government that was spending a good deal more than it collected, that had no international reserves, no dollars to import the things the country needed, and which had accrued debts with countries that helped our fatherland with loans, as well as with a few international financial institutions. It was the first time in El Salvador's history that this had happened.

I also inherited a great deal of corruption which, in my opinion, was generated by the government's lack of credibility and legitimacy in using state resources. Corruption was the order of the day. When a patient needs

treatment—and in this case I am visualizing the economy as a seriously ill patient who is almost in a coma—medicine is required. If medicine is not applied, the patient will probably die. This would have happened to the Salvadoran economy had we not applied the adequate and proper medicine.

I can cite examples, like Nicaragua. Nicaragua's economic model, in my opinion, was archaic and mistaken, and it led to an annual inflation of 26,000 percent. This means that what cost 1 cordoba—Nicaragua's currency—at the beginning of the year, by the end of the year cost 26,000 cordobas. We do not have such a serious problem in El Salvador. There is inflation, which certainly has an impact, especially on low-income sectors, but it was necessary to do something to avoid reaching Nicaragua's extremes. Very often, when the patient is very ill, the proper medicine must be applied, and very often that medicine is painful and so is the recovery.

I could not but speak to you openly to explain the economic crisis and some of the measures that have been implemented. I know these meausres demand sacrifices from many sectors of the population. Nevertheless, if you analyze the measures impartially, you will see that in all of them we have tried, as much as possible, to protect the lower income sectors.

Take interest rates, for example. There are many savers—like you perhaps—who had their little savings in the bank and were not being paid an adequate interest rate. Nevertheless, there were even fewer people receiving those funds as loans, and they were being subsidized by the meager interest the savers received.

I can also say that the government's measures have always protected staple foods. Price controls have been maintained, and thanks to the importation of basic food products, for example, prices have begun dropping. I found the warehouses empty. The IRA [Institute of Supply Regulation] not only did not have corn, but the country owed foreign institutions 127,000 quintals of corn. Nevertheless, I have authorized imports, and we are going to have a strategic reserve of basic food products to preclude dramatic price fluctuations.

Other measures have also protected lower-income sectors. CEL [Lempa River Hydroelectric Executive Commission] rates are an example. The tariffs of people who consume little electricity—and this is the case of the lower-income sectors—have not been raised. Therefore, when I speak of economic issues within the concept and model of social market economy, I always stress the importance of the social aspect because the social and economic aspects are linked; we cannot separate one from the other.

However, you must also see that although the medicine is painful at this moment, it is being applied for a purpose: to correct the ills that we were suffering, to make the economic situation flourish within the short- and medium-term, and to ensure that not only a few people will be subsidized, but that only the lower-income sectors will be subsidized.

That which is currently demanding a small sacrifice from all of us will mean a better future, especially for our children—the youth who constitute the majority of the Salvadoran population.

As adults, as parents, it is worthwhile for us to think about our children, about the young people. We must recognize that whatever sacrifice we make now will benefit them. I am sure that you will also benefit from these sacrifices because the economic reforms and policies we are implementing will soon have positive results.

We are going to check inflation because we have decided that in the near future the government will stop spending more than what it collects. This kind of spending is the factor most responsible for prices going up.

We know that in promoting a market economy, we are going to generate more economic activities, and this means more employment, and more employment benefits those who do not have a job, and 50 percent of the Salvadoran people are underemployed because they cannot find permanent jobs. We must resolve this situation. Those who have a job can take some relief to their families and satisfy their needs.

We also believe, Salvadoran brothers, that this small sacrifice will yield fruit soon, that by the beginning of next year new jobs will be created, there will be more economic activities. This will help the young people now in school and those who are still dependent, who do not find jobs when they graduate from secondary school or the university. We must provide that Salvadoran majority, the young, with the opportunities that a thriving economy that produces jobs would offer them when they finish school. They should not have to face a desperate situation that increasingly pushes families into extreme poverty.

I have also said that our government is very much aware of social needs. We must have a spirit of solidarity because the resources we have are not enough to cover all the Salvadorans. It is only fair that we direct whatever resource we may have to the poor sectors, to people experiencing extreme poverty. We must help them directly.

Salvadoran brothers, we have a social program without precedent in our country's history. No government had ever designed a 941-million colones social program directed at giving social aid to the most needy. This has been the result of big effort made by the cabinet ministers dealing with the social situation.

We cannot find a way to resolve all the problems but we do make every effort to help those who most need help.

Friends: We believe that the government is responding to the concerns the people had before 19 March; we believe that the people now have a government that is

really hitting whoever gets involved in corruption, that we are firmly putting an end to contraband. We will continue doing this. We must be clear on this: Whoever gets involved in corruption is not a friend of the government, regardless of how close to us he was in the past. We cannot tolerate people violating the law in a country with such scarce resources as ours. Those violations hurt all the people. For this reason we have firmly initiated a program to eradicate once and for all the scourge of corruption.

Dear televiewers, we want to conclude this intrusion into your homes this evening by asking you to put to use the civic, patriotic, and moral values that this month, when we commemorate El Salvador's independence, serves to strengthen; to join forces, all of us, in this effort for the recovery of our fatherland. Let us recognize that while it is true that we are going through a crisis, it is also true that there is a government prepared to work to pull us out of the crisis, and that it will be easier to progress if all of us contribute to getting out of the crisis and do not engage in destruction and in promoting unstability, because this hurts all the people. In this month of independence, let us think carefuily. Let us be united for the sake of El Salvador, we have said. Unity is what our fatherland needs today. It needs a Salvadoran-style effort to move our country ahead and to be able to leave for our children a country of peace, progress, and liberty.

Salvadoran people: We thank you for having listened to us. We will always be reporting our activities to you. We believe it is fair that everybody know what the government does. You will see that the government works for you. May God bless you. Thank you.

Government-Guerrilla Dialogue Plans

Dialogue Commission Sworn In

PA0809154089 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1340 GMT 8 Sep 89

[Text] San Salvador, 8 Sep (ACAN-EFE)—Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani on 7 September proposed to the guerrillas that the first meetings of the dialogue take place 12-13 September in Mexico, and he announced an amnesty bill that would allow wounded rebels to leave the country.

After swearing in the five members of the dialogue commission, Cristiani announced that the government will submit this amnesty bill, which will allow wounded guerrillas to seek medical treatment abroad, to the Legislative Assembly today.

The official commission is made up of four attorneys and a military man, namely, Oscar Santamaria, Abelardo Torres, David Escobar Galindo, Hernan Contreras, and Colonel Juan Antonio Varela, who is the Presidency minister and a close friend of Cristiani.

The president said that the dialogue with the guerrillas will take place without the mediation of Archbishop Arturo Rivera y Damas. He added that it aims to establish the foundationss to end a war that has claimed more than 70,000 lives in the past decade.

"We pray to God that we will be able to start a peace process today," said Cristiani, leader of the rightist Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA), who committed himself upon assuming the Presidency on 1 June to bring peace to his country.

The commission has decisionmaking powers, represents the government, and "will focus its efforts on achieving peace," he pointed out.

The president said that ending the hostilities "as soon as possible to create a better climate in the nation" is a priority of the dialogue.

Cristiani avoided commenting on what the guerrillas described as "goodwill gestures," such as a suspension of sabotage operations beginning on 10 September, by saying that he was not familiar with the official text of a document issued by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN).

Nevertheless, the president described as "encouraging" the measures decreed by the guerrillas and added that they "benefit the Salvadoran people."

The FMLN 2 days ago proposed talks with the government in Mexico on 10-14 September and announced a suspension of sabotage operations against electricity and telecommunications systems as "a goodwill gesture" to create an appropriate atmosphere for the talks.

The FMLN agreed to meet with the official commission, although the Army will not be represented. The FMLN had previously insisted that the Army participate in the dialogue; however, it insisted that Archbishop Arturo Rivera y Damas, who served as mediator in government-FMLN negotiations in 1984 and 1987, act as mediator in the talks.

According to Cristiani, neither the Army nor the church should participate in the dialogue commission because they are "apolitical" institutions. He acknowledged, however, that both of them play an important role in the negotiation process.

FNLN Calls for Church Role

PA0909010889 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0024 GMT 9 Sep 89

[Text] Mexico City, 8 Sep (DPA)—The dialogue between the leftist rebels and the Salvadoran Government scheduled for next week in Mexico is in danger of not being held because of a lack of agreement on the mediation by the church.

Guerrilla commander Ana Guadalupe Martinez told the news agency SALPRESS in Mexico City that no definitive agreement has been reached yet to hold the dialogue with the rightist administration of President Alf[illegible]do

Cristiani to seek an end to the 9-year old civil war whose death toll is already 70,000.

A solution should be reached before the dialogue begins about the mediating role the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) has proposed for San Salvador Archbishop Arturo Rivera y Damas, said Martinez, who is a member of the FMLN Political-Diplomatic Commission.

Salvadoran President Cristiani had scheduled an initial round of talks for 12 and 13 September in Mexico City and, in answer to a proposal from the guerrillas, has appointed a delegation but rejected the mediation role which the rebels had proposed for the Catholic archbishop.

The guerrilla commander said that another matter to be resolved is the role of the witnesses proposed by the FMLN, which must be delegates from the United Nations or the Organization of American States.

Meanwhile, Salvadoran rebel commander Mario Lopez confirmed to the Salvadoran news agency headquartered in Mexico that the problem is presumably being dealt with through direct channels between the guerrillas and the government, hinting at a possible solution.

Mediator Question Unresolved

PA0909050689 Paris AFP in Spanish 0430 GMT 9 Sep 89

[Text] Mexico City, 8 Sep (AFP)—The dialogue between the Salvadoran Government and the guerrillas, scheduled for next week in Mexico, "has not been definitely agreed on" if the church's mediation is not accepted, it was stated today by Ana Martinez, commander of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN).

During an interview with NOTIMEX, Martinez said that President Alfredo Cristiani accepted the FMLN's dialogue proposal but refused to accept the participation of Salvadoran Archbishop Arturo Rivera y Damas, "and the role of the witnesses and the political parties has yet to be agreed on."

According to the guerrilla leader, the refusal to accept the church's participation as mediator in the dialogue comes from former Major Roberto d'Aubuisson, whom the FMLN holds responsible for the murder of Msgr Oscar Arnulfo Romero.

"It is a critical contradiction between Cristiani's need to begin a serious dialogue and the obstacles created by the extreme right sectors within the party," she added.

Martinez also stated that Cristiani is trying to begin the dialogue without a mediator, thus establishing a precedent to refuse the presence of a mediator in subsequent contacts.

Rosa Chavez To Mediate

PA1009162989 Paris AFP in Spanish 1536 GMT 10 Sep 89

[Text] Mexico City, 10 Sep (AFP)—Gregorio Rosa Chavez, auxiliary archbishop of San Salvador, will mediate the dialogue to take place here between the FMLN and the Salvadoran Government, according to a report published today in the newspaper LA JORNADA, which cites an insurgent spokesman as its source.

The paper said that an FMLN spokesman had given assurances that President Alfredo Cristiani's administration had agreed to the participation of Rosa Chavez, and that the auxiliary archbishop will arrive in Mexico City tonight to take part in the final preparations for the meeting, scheduled for 12-13 September.

On announcing here last week that it would suspend acts of sabotage against the telecommunications and power network to facilitate the negotiations, the FMLN set as a precondition that the Salvadoran church be allowed to participate in the dialogue.

Church 'To Observe' Talks

PA1009202389 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1759 GMT 10 Sep 89

[Text] San Salvador, 10 Sep (ACAN-EFE)—Gregorio Rosa Chavez, auxiliary bishop of San Salvador, said today that the Catholic Church has agreed to observe the dialogue the government and Salvadoran guerrillas will begin next week in Mexico.

Rosa Chavez said that he and Romeo Tobar Astorga, bishop of Santiago de Maria, have agreed to participate as witnesses at the dialogue that will be held in Mexico on 12 and 13 September by a five-member government delegation and several guerrilla leaders.

"We are willing to be present and to render the services requested of us, because peace has been and will continue to be one of our priorities," stressed Rosa Chavez, who participated in dialogues between the government and the guerrillas in 1984 and 1987.

Rosa Chavez reported that violence in El Salvador this week claimed over 40 victims. He said this is why it is necessary to find a political solution to the war in the country.

However, Rosa Chavez said that the guerrillas have not yet responded to the Salvadoran Government's proposal that the two bishops participate in the dialogue as observers.

President Alfredo Cristiani proposed initiating the meeting between the government and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] on 12 and 13 September in order to seek a political solution of the Salvadoran conflict.

Cristiani says the conversations should be direct, but yesterday he proposed the participation of Bishops Tobar and Rosa Chavez as observers.

Meanwhile, the FMLN maintains that Arturo Rivera y Damas, archbishop of San Salvador, should participate as mediator. The guerrillas have not responded to Cristiani's proposal for other bishops to observe the dialogue.

Rosa Chavez said that the bishops are willing to attend the dialogue as long as both sides request it, adding that "the guerrillas have not given an answer regarding our presence."

The prelate, who officiated the mass at the Metropolitan Cathedral, said that the dialogue has created a great deal of expectation and that the meeting "will not be simply a meeting to discuss procedural issues, but in-depth issues for both sides."

"Peace in El Salvador requires a concerted effort through dialogue," Rosa Chavez said.

In 1984 and 1987, the government, which at that time was headed by Jose Napoleon Duarte, met with the guerrillas on at least three occasions. However, the dialogue failed after both sides accused each other of using the negotiations for propagandist purposes.

Nicaragua

President Ortega Concludes Trip to Summit

Stops in Spain; Meets Gonzalez

PA0809135289 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1119 GMT 8 Sep 89

[Text] Madrid, 8 Sep (EFE)—Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega arrived at Madrid's Barajas Airport at 1200 (1000 GMT) and directly left for Moncloa Palace to meet with Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez.

Ortega, who was greeted at the airport by Luis Yanez, secretary of state for international cooperation and for Latin America, will be in Madrid for 5 hours. He is returning from Belgrade, where he attended the nonaligned summit.

Gonzalez and Ortega will have lunch together and discuss the Central American situation and the progress of the Esquipulas peace plan and, in this regard, Spanish contribution toward the verification process of such plan.

Ortega will also inform Gonzalez of the expectations that the call for the February general elections have created for Nicaragua.

Arrives in Managua

PA0909172689 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1639 GMT 9 Sep 89

[Text] Managua, 9 Sep (ACAN-EFE)—Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega returned to Nicaragua early this morning from Europe, where he attended the summit of the Nonaligned Movement (NAM) which took place in Belgrade on 4-7 September.

Official sources who confirmed Ortega's arrival said he did not make any statements to the press.

In a speech delivered in Belgrade on 6 September, Ortega supported the most radical positions within the NAM with strong condemnations against the United States.

Before attending the summit in Yugoslavia, Ortega met with Cuban President Fidel Castro and then traveled to Tripoli (Libya) to attend the 20th anniversary of the revolution promoted in that Arab country by Colonel Mu'ammar Qadhdhafi.

The Sandinist leader also met Friday in Madrid with Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, who offered his mediation to obtain collective support from the EC for Nicaragua's democratization plan.

Sandinist Police To Guarantee Clean Elections

PA0909170689 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 6 Sep 89 pp 1, 5

[Excerpt] Interior Minister Commander of the Revolution Tomas Borge affirmed yesterday that the Sandinist Police, specifically the Electoral Police, must guarantee that the elections process, as well as the general elections to take place in February 1990, are pure and free.

During his speech at the main event to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Sandinist Police, the Sandinist leader said that the forces of law and order "represent decency, because we are open, because we respect the la .., and because we love true democracy." Borge urged policemen to be "impartial" when it comes to politics.

In an eloquent speech delivered under a torrential rain at Police Station Five in the Central America neighborhood named after heoroic guerrilla commander Walter "Chombito" Ferreti, Borge said that there is no doubt that when the time comes for definitions, people will express their will as arrows of fire shot into the future across a red and black [Sandinist colors] horizon.

Borge warned that the enemies of the revolution will continue to use tergiversation and lies and urged all MINT [Interior Ministry] fighters to be "ready" for the upcoming plans and campaigns.

Borge criticized the so-called Permanent Human Rights Commission, which he accused of inventing lies about missing people in Nicaragua and exaggerating the number of prisoners. "Missing people in Nicaragua? The only thing that has disappeared from here is foreign domination and violations of human rights. What will never disappear is the people's patriotism," Borge stressed.

"We do not have clandestine jails or torture centers, which do exist in countries that are friendly toward those

liars," Commander Borge stressed, refuting the campaign of lies of those who call themselves defenders of human rights. [passage omitted]

Tinoco Says No Negotiation With Contras

PA1009221489 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 9 Sep 89 pp 1,5

[Text] Nicaraguan Vice Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco yesterday announced that the Tela agreements' International Support and Verification Commission [CIAV] will visit Nicaragua on 12-13 September to discuss the contras' demobilization.

Tinoco also said that the Nicaraguan Government is willing to talk to contra leaders about guarantees for their repatriation, but there will be no more political negotiations because that is not included in the Tela agreements.

The CIAV will visit Honduras before coming to Nicaragua, and its members will meet with Honduran authorities and contra leaders at the camp in Yamales. Tinoco said the commission will thus reach its own conclusions. Likewise, the Nicaraguan Government is prepared to meet with CIAV representatives and discuss its views, Tinoco stated.

The vice foreign minister explained that there are three UN and OAS commissions working in Nicaragua and Central America to guarantee the Tela agreements' implementation and follow up on the peace agreements. Of these three, only ONUVEN [UN Observer Mission for Verification of Elections in Nicaragua] is in charge of following up the election process in Nicaragua.

Tinoco said that ONUVEN is already in Nicaragua. It is a commission comprised of 30 persons who will tour all the regions in the country, and their only task is to observe the election process.

The vice foreign minister said that the only mission of the third commission, ONUCA [Group of UN Observers to Central America], is to observe the Tela agreements' implementation; the non-use of Costa Rican or Honduran territory by irregular groups; and the non-support to those groups. ONUCA has already visited Costa Rica. It is enroute to Honduras and will arrive in Nicaragua between 13 and 19 September.

Tinoco said: "ONUCA is not coming to settle in the region because its role is to appraise the regional situation and later advise the United Nations on the requirements of the peace process." The Nicaraguan vice foreign minister insisted that, as far as the Nicaraguan Government is concerned, the commission will find no obstacles, it will be able to travel to the borders, and it will receive whatever help is required to carry out its mission.

Victor Hugo Tinoco also spoke about the commissions' third important task. In this case, the CIAV's mission is to carry out, supervise, and verify the contras' demobilization, voluntary repatriation, and relocation in other territories. The UN and OAS secretaries general are members of the commission.

Recent estimates indicate that between 6,000 and 7,000 armed counterrevolutionaries are at the bases in Honduras. Add their relatives and friends and there are approximately 50,000 persons.

Referring to kidnapped people, Vice Minister Tinoco said that the CIAV had calculated that approximately 1,800 have been confirmed by name.

The main task right now is to find out if all are alive or if some were murdered, and to notify their relatives. The CIAV is working in coordination with the Nicaraguan Government to investigate this and recover the survivors, Tinoco added.

Contras Ready To Surrender Arms

PA0909045989 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 2337 GMT 8 Sep 89

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 8 Sep (REUTER)—A contra commander said today, on the eve of the arrival of a group of UN observers that will monitor contra activities along the Nicaraguan border, that the U.S.-supported contras are prepared to put down their weapons. "If we receive guarantees, we will put down our weapons, we will ask to be repatriated, and we will participate in the election process in Nicaragua." This statement was made to REUTER by Commander Johnson, who is a spokesman for some 12,000 contras based in Honduras.

Johnson said that a commission of contra commanders has been created to meet with UN and OAS officials called upon by the Central American presidents to observe the demobilization of the contras by 5 December.

Sixteen UN specialists are scheduled to arrive in Honduras this weekend to deploy a UN observers force along Honduras' borders with Nicaragua and El Salvador. This force, known by its Spanish acronym of ONUCA, will include unarmed officers from the FRG, Spain, and Canada, who will verify that neither the contras nor the leftist rebels in El Salvador enter Honduran territory.

A Honduran Foreign Ministry official, Eugenio Castro, said that two ONUCA specialists will arrive 9 September, and that the other 14 on 10 September. Castro said that on 11 September they are scheduled to meet with Foreign Minister Carlos Lopez Contreras, after which they will be traveling for 3 days by helicopter over the border. [sentence as received]

Neither Castro nor the contra officials were able to confirm if there are plans for a meeting between ONUCA and the contra rebels. Johnson said: "ONUCA's role involves basically Honduras and Nicaragua. It does not have much to do with the demobilization of the contras."

A Foreign Ministry official has said, however, that during the ONUCA visit, a small group of delegates from the

International Support and Verification Committee [CIAV] will meet with the Honduran Government to discuss Tegucigalpa's conditions for dismantling the contras.

In Tela, Honduras, the five presidents of Central America asked the United Nations and the OAS to jointly establish the CIAV before 6 September to supervise the voluntary repatriation of the contras.

The contra leadership in Honduras has not officially reacted to the Tela agreement. It claims that it prefers to return to Nicaragua with arms to continue the 8-year-old struggle against the Sandinist regime rather than surrender its weapons. Johnson, however, says: "There is no point in an armed return to Nicaragua."

U.S. Financial Support to UNO Candidates Noted

PA0909133889 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1217 GMT 9 Sep 89

[Text] The United States will finance the presidential campaign of Violeta Barrios de Chamorro and Virgilio Godoy, with an initial allotment of $3 million.

According to THE WASHINGTON POST, the funds could be channelled through the National Endowment for Democracy and another sum covertly through the CIA.

The U.S. State Department will present a document to Congress requesting its (?approval), the U.S. daily reported.

Newspaper Claims NED Investigating Use of Funds

PA0809190789 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 7 Sep 89, pp 1, 8

[Text] Sources linked to the NED [National Endowment for Democracy]—a U.S. Government front organization—and the rightist political parties said that a NED representative was among the U.S. citizens who recently arrived at the Intercontinental Hotel to pay the UNO [National Opposition Union] payroll. The NED representative came for the sole purpose of "checking" on the women's organization that the rightist parties had promised the NED they would create. For this purpose the NED gave them $54,000.

According to the source, the person in charge of the operation, who is the wife of a leader of the party led by Rivas Gasteazoro, left for Guatemala so she would not have to present the accounts to the NED representative. Nevertheless, the gringo waited patiently for her return.

It finally turned out that there was only $6,500 in the account, and, of the thousands of women they had promised to organize, all they could show were photographs of a few meetings with market vendors that took place in a hotel in the capital city. The representative did not find any women's organization nor the money belonging to the NED.

Other sources said that the so-called Civic Way [Via Civica] is about to receive another "audit."

The organization that supplied the money has been informed that the activities of the above-mentioned Civic Way have been limited to organizing meetings in the interior and in Managua in which a few people are given a "pro-Yankee harangue," are handed $100 each, and are then registered as members. These are the so-called well-attended meetings on which huge amounts of money have been spent.

According to the sources, two receipts are made for radio "advertising campaigns." One is used to pay the stations and a different one is used to charge their sponsors.

Civic Way Officer Quinonez Interviewed

PA0909033789 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Sep 89

[Text] Dr Carlos Quinonez, executive director of the so-called Civic Way [Via Civica] has admitted that its members include political parties' leaders who are, in fact, biased. Civic Way is an organization which tries to assume functions and representation equal or parallel to that of the Supreme Electoral Council [CSE]—and receives financial support from the U.S. Government. The plans to infiltrate the organization with political leaders are aimed at training persons who will participate in future elections, reportedly as impartial members, but in fact representing the right-wing opposition.

Dr Carlos Quinonez admitted that his organization is assuming tasks that exclusively pertain to the CSE, and it is composed of opposition leaders and parties.

[Begin recording] [Quinonez] Therefore, the citizens have the obligation of sponsoring these civic organizations and the state has the duty of sponsoring and developing them so that the people may assume a sensible and prudent attitude during the elections, and so that they may exercise their rights.

[Reporter] Dr Quinonez, we are talking about electoral activities, and some of these are apparently parallel to the activities carried out by the CSE, which is in charge of supervising the correct organization and honesty of the elections.

[Quinonez] That is right, we could say that they are parallel but this does not clearly explain the organization's position, because the activities are parallel but they are never the same. Nevertheless, we are trying to achieve the same goal. We, like the CSE, maintain an unbiased attitude so that the voters may state their will. They can vote for the candidate who, shall we say, offers them a better opportunity based on his ideology. We do not sponsor that. We sponsor the citizens' instruction so that they may exercise civic rights such as registering and voting.

[Reporter] That is guaranteed by the CSE and the law so you are carrying out the same function. You would be subject to the CSE's mandate.

[Quinonez] Yes, we have requested a visit to the CSE. We have sent two messages to the CSE and we have

placed ourselves at the service of the CSE. We do not [words indistinct] but we are at its service for this difficult task. We hope that the CSE will meet with us as soon as possible.

[Reporter] You say that Civic Way officials support political parties, not politicians or fellow party members. Nevertheless, Hortensia Rivas and other leaders of the Social Democratic Party are activists and members of the party's political commission.

[Quinonez] I believe that every citizen in Nicaragua should be a member of a party, belong to an ideology. If we had chosen someone from the FSLN, he would still belong to the FSLN, but that is not what we are really sponsoring. We will adopt an impartial attitude even if in our conscience we belong to a given political party. [end recording]

UNO Dissident Parties Switch Support to Godoy

PA0909135489 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 7 Sep 89

[Text] In a 180-degree turn from their previous stance rejecting the National Opposition Union [UNO] presidential ticket that included Virgilio Godoy, political parties that had previously opposed him have now announced their support for him. The Liberal Constitutionalist Party [PLC] yesterday released a communique, signed by Jaime Cuadra Somarriba, president of the party's national directorate, saying PLC backs the presidential and vice presidential candidates of the ticket that UNO's electoral tribunal declared the winner.

In the document, the PLC says it proposed Enrique Bolanos as vice presidential candidate at a UNO meeting and that the party expects Bolanos to contribute toward the electoral process. Silviano Matamoros of the National Conservative Party [PNC], who opposed the Chamorro-Godoy ticket, has announced that he now supports it. He and Agustin Jarquin of the National Confidence Democratic Party [PDCN] will sign the legal document for the formation of UNO at 1000 today. Despite this switch by political forces that opposed Godoy's candidacy, the Nicaraguan Workers Federation [CTN] has announced that it is preparing a protest march against Godoy.

After a meeting with a U.S. Embassy official, top leaders of COSEP [Higher Council of Private Enterprise] yesterday kept silent after the four opposition parties that had opposed Godoy's candidacy announced their support for him. COSEP Vice President Ramiro Gurdian said that UNO members has discussed the situation for more than 4 hours. He declined, however, to disclose the exact nature of the subjects discussed with the U.S. official. In addition, Gurdian declined to comment on the four parties' decision to support Godoy. Gurdian only admitted to having met with a man named Martinez in the office of the embassy's political affairs secretary. Gurdian said his organization will take some time to consider its next step, but that COSEP does not necessarily have to make a pronouncement on the UNO situation. He said that he personally disagrees with the Chamorro-Godoy ticket.

After meeting with Martinez, the four UNO dissident parties abandoned the idea of leaving the fragile political alliance. The four parties are the PLC, which includes old figures of the defunct Nationalist Liberal Party headed by Anastasio Somoza; the PNC; the PDCN; and the National Action Party, headed by Eduardo Rivas Gasteazoro. The four announced they would no longer support Bolanos after they met with Martinez.

Chamorro's Son-in-Law To Direct UNO Campaign

PA1009014489 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0024 GMT 10 Sep 89

[Text] Managua, 9 Sep (ACAN-EFE)—The National Opposition Union [UNO] has appointed businessman Antonio Lacayo, who is the son-in-law of UNO Presidential Candidate Violeta Chamorro, as the head of the opposition alliance's election campaign committee for the February 1990 elections.

Lacayo, an engineer, is also a leading industrialist and member of the Higher Council of Private Enterprise [COSEP]. He is married to Cristiana Chamorro, daughter of the presidential candidate, who is the editor of LA PRENSA, an opposition daily owned by the Chamorro family.

The Political Council of the alliance, which is made up of 14 political parties of various ideologies, has now completed its election campaign team. This team includes Social Democrats, Conservative Party people, Social Christians, and liberals, including Alfredo Cesar, a former member of the contra directorate.

The other members of the election campaign committee are: Jaime Bonilla, of the Independent Liberal Party [PLI]; Alberto Saborio, of the Conservative National Party; Cairo Manuel Lopez, of the National Democratic Confidence Party; and Duilio Baltodano, of the National Action Party.

The widow of Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, a journalist killed by gunmen of the Somozist regime on 10 January 1978, was nominated as UNO's presidential candidate 1 week ago. Her running mate is Virgilio Godoy, PLI's leader.

UNO will hold its first public rally tomorrow. It will take place in the city of Juigalpa, in the central department of Chontales. The rally will be attended by observers from the United Nations, the OAS, and other organizations monitoring the democratization process in Central America.

Violeta Chamorro, 5,000 Attend 1st Rally

PA1109002789 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2315 GMT 10 Sep 89

[Text] Juigalpa, Nicaragua, 10 Sep (ACAN-EFE)—The first rally headed by Nicaraguan opposition presidential

candidate Violeta Chamorro concluded today without any incidents and in the presence of many foreign observers.

According to local observers, 5,000 people participated in the opposition rally, while pro-Sandinist newsmen said 2,500 demonstrators participated. The rally was held without military surveillance and amid the shouting of anti-Sandinist slogans.

The rally held in the cattle region of Juigalpa in central Nicaragua went by that city's main streets and was observed by UN and OAS representatives.

Cristiana Chamorro, Violeta's daughter, said that visiting U.S. congressmen wanted to observe the rally, but could not because they were called to meet with President Daniel Ortega in Managua at the same time the rally took place in Juigalpa.

The U.S. congressmen met with President Ortega in Managua and warned him that if the Sandinist regime decides "for any reason" to cancel or postpone the presidential elections, the United States would send new aid for the Nicaraguan contras.

The U.S. Congressional mission also demanded a number of conditions from Ortega's government to guarantee clean elections. Among other things, the U.S. congressmen demanded that Ortega authorize the visit of other U.S. missions to Nicaragua to participate in observing the elections.

Virgilio Godoy, National Opposition Union (UNO) vice presidential candidate, who accompanied Violeta Chamorro during the rally, said in his speech that over the past 10 years the Sandinists "instead of hospitals and schools, have only built jails and garrisons."

Godoy, vice presidential candidate and Liberal Party leader said in Juijalpa, 110 km northeast of Managua, that "peasants continue to be murdered for being suspected contra members" in Nicaragua.

Godoy asked the "national directorate of the Sandinist Front (comprised of nine commanders) to leave for Cuba, the Soviet Union, North Korea, or to wherever they want, but please leave."

Godoy said: "After 25 February, 1990, (date of the Nicaraguan presidential elections) Nicaragua will recover its freedom." Godoy added: "We will melt cannons and will turn them into plows to till our land."

According to Godoy, on 25 February, freedom and Nicaragua's future and progress will be at stake.

Godoy asked all Nicaraguans to register to vote during the four Sundays of October and to cast their votes on 25 February in favor of UNO, which represents 14 political parties.

Before her speech, Violeta Chamorro was welcomed with applause and signs of support. Her first words were dedicated to her husband Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, a conservative, anti-Somozist newsman who was murdered on 10 January 1978.

Violeta Chamorro said that her husband wanted freedom and democracy in Nicaragua and that his wish was the heritage he bequeathed to her.

Violeta Chamorro said that the past 10 years have been years of "tears, sadness, and betrayal" in Nicaragua and that many Nicaraguans have been killed by the Army because they are contra members or because they have been forced to fight in the war.

Chamorro added: "In Nicaragua, there are nine commanders in addition to the one who lives on the island [referring to Cuba's Fidel Castro] and they govern Nicaragua."

According to Violeta Chamorro, President Ortega has not fulfilled the commitments he made and that is why there are UN and OAS observers in Nicaragua.

Violeta Chamorro ended her speech with the slogan "Nicaragua will be a Republic again," her murdered husband's battle cry.

Panama

Rodriguez Rejects New U.S. Army Maneuvers

Report on 8 Sep Maneuvers

PA0909181489 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 9 Sep 89 pp A-1, A-6

[Text] Yesterday U.S. Southern Command troops carried out military maneuvers against Panamanian sovereign territory. A total of 13 armored vehicles and 150 infantry marines entered the community of Veracruz, as well as Arraijan and other nearby towns such as La Polvareda.

Colonel J. J. Doyce, commander of the infantry marine forces stationed in Panama, announced the maneuvers, which take place 2 days after the Nonaligned Movement issued a document criticizing the increase of U.S. troops and the "constant military maneuvers" in Panamanian territory, warning that the current tension could develop into a grave conflict.

Two artillery-equipped armored vehicles and one HMMV [high mobility multipurpose vehicle] vehicle passed through the main entrance to Veracruz and then proceeded along one of the streets of that town, causing nervousness among the population, including children returning from school.

The operation, which lasted 2 hours, was carried out along the road leading to Veracruz. Before entering the town, the vehicles and U.S. soldiers stopped at a spot overlooking the town.

The soldiers continued to Arraijan, where U.S. Southern Command troops have repeatedly entered. This community is located outside the areas where, according to the Torrijos-Carter treaties, U.S. troops can carry out military maneuvers, a source from the Combined Defense Board said.

"Arraijan and Veracruz are located in areas under total Panamanian jurisdiction," the source said, adding that according to the Torrijos-Carter treaties military exercises must be reported to the Panamanian counterpart.

The U.S. military operation took place despite a recent statement by Panamanian Provisional President Francisco Rodriguez, who reiterated that his government maintains an "open door" for reaching an understanding with the United States to end the crisis that has affected relations between the two nations for the past 18 months.

Rodriguez Statement Cited

PA0909162889 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1541 GMT 9 Sep 89

[Text] Panama City, 9 Sep (DPA)—Panamanian Provisional President Francisco Rodriguez today "rejected" the maneuvers carried out by the U.S. Army in two Panamanian towns.

After stating that the nonaligned countries approved a resolution expressing their concern about the increasing number of U.S. troops and U.S. military maneuvers in Panama, the Panamanian provisional president said that "each and every U.S. maneuver is rejected by the Panamanians."

The U.S. troops stationed in the Panama Canal area yesterday resumed their military exercises. During yesterday's exercises, the U.S. Army used 150 Marines, combat vehicles, and jet aircraft in the towns of Veracruz and Loma Cobada, 8 km from their bases.

On another topic, Rodriguez said the fact that some countries "are taking their time" with regard to the Panamanian provisional government is normal. The president admitted that the new government is not the result of a constitutional solution, but rather a political option created by the annulment of the 7 May elections.

Rodriguez also said he hopes that the situation will change so that Panama can normalize its relations with other countries.

Passports for Panamanians in U.S. To Continue

PA0809192089 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1730 GMT 8 Sep 89

[Interview with Melva de Pimento, Passport Office director general, by unidentified reporter in Panama City; date not given]

[Text] Melva de Pimento, general director of the Passport Office, has said that although diplomatic relations with the United States are nonexistent, the Passport Office will continue to issue passports to Panamanians who are in the United States:

[Begin recording] [Pimento] We issued 24,099 passports during the first 8 months of 1989, compared to 45,179 passports during the same period last year. As you can see, there is a significant decrease.

[Reporter] In view of the closure of Panamanian consulates in the United States and the break in relations with our country, how can Panamanians in the United States request passports?

[Pimento] I thank you for this opportunity because I am obliged to inform the citizens about this. Although our consulates in Tampa, Boston, and New York—which used to issue passports signed by me—are closed, we will continue to issue passports to Panamanians in the United States. Those people need not return to Panama to request passports, given that we have no consuls in those places.

A relative or friend may request passports on their behalf. This involves using officially stamped paper. We will also need the individual's identity card number and personal data to ensure that the passport reaches the right person.

Of course, beginning in September, I will not be responsible for how the U.S. Government receives our passports. I will continue to issue them. I hope that the U.S.Government will continue to honor my signature on them. Otherwise, I will not be responsible; the U.S. authorities will be responsible. [end recording]

Government Defends Legality in Letter to Envoys

PA0909193389 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1825 GMT 9 Sep 89

[Text] Panama City, 9 Sep (ACAN-EFE)—The Panamanian Government headed by Francisco Rodriguez has asserted since 1 September that it maintains "legal order" and that it was appointed to "guarantee the continuity of the de jure state." The government made the statements in referrence to accusations by the local opposition and other countries that its appointment was a "coup."

Similarly, the Panamanian Government held the United States responsible for the political, economic, and institutional crisis the country is experiencing and accused the U.S. troops of behaving in Panamanian territory like "an occupation army in a conquered country."

In a document sent to the diplomatic missions accredited to Panama, to which ACAN-EFE had access today, the Panamanian Government holds Washington responsible for the irregularities during the 7 May elections, for the violent actions that took place 3 days after the elections, for the annulment of the elections, and for the failure of the dialogue promoted by the OAS.

Although it does not mention them directly, the document responds to reports that the new government is "illegitimate"—as the EEC described it—and to reports that the new Panamanian Government is a "coup d'etat" as the local opposition leaders and even Ramon Sieiro, progovernment leader and brother-in-law of General Manuel Antonio Noriega, chief of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP], have said.

The document states that Rodriguez was appointed by the General State Council "in view of the election annulment," and stresses that the General State Council "comprises all the executive, legislative, and judicial branches' administrative echelons at provincial, national, civilian, and military levels."

The document adds that in view of its all-encompassing status, the General State Council "is a body that widely represents the entire nation, and its duty is to lay down the guidelines that guarantee the continuity of the de jure state."

The text of the document sent by the Panamanian Foreign Ministry to the various embassies in Panama adds: "Legal order will be maintained and the Supreme Court of Justice will continue to function with the same constitutional powers."

As for the violent 10 May incidents, during which opposition leaders were beaten up and which caused harsh international criticism against the Panamanian regime, the government holds "heavily armed hired assassins at the service of the U.S. Embassy" responsible for the incidents.

According to the document, men "trained and armed at U.S. military installations in Panama and assigned by their agents as bodyguards of the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance candidates, caused the violent incidents, which were distorted by the media to portray a grotesque scene of physical aggression against the said candidates."

The government says that the opposition candidates played the lead roles in a "histrionic farce" and that "up until today it has been impossible for them to show the alleged injuries they suffered on that occasion."

The opposition leaders said they were attacked by regime's "paramilitary groups" when they were claiming their triumph in the 7 May elections.

The government says that the OAS mediating efforts failed because the opposition, which followed the "will" of the Washington government, made "demands that represented a substantial surrendering of sovereign powers of the Panamanian state."

In the dialogue, the opposition demanded the withdrawal of Gen Manuel Antonio Noriega from the FDP.

The document to which ACAN-EFE had access today asserts that "the Panamanian political crisis is really an international crisis between the United States and Panama, which was caused by U.S. interference in Panamanian domestic affairs." The government adds that despite the U.S. "interference," it assumed the control of the country "under public commitments to lead the country along the path of democratization."

For that reason, the document adds, it was immediately announced that "in a brief period of 6 months," the government will assess the country's situation to establish procedures for holding new elections."

In addition, the government promises that "Panama will meet its international obligations (and) will respect the international treaties, agreements, and pacts signed by previous administrations and that are currently in effect."

The document continues, saying that the new government "will maintain an open economy in a pluralist society and that it will conform to the country's vocation to live in peace with all nations."

As for the accusations against the United States, the document states that its "interference" in the 7 May elections included the direct participation of U.S. diplomats in the political campaign, financial backing for the opposition, and the personal interference of President George Bush himself.

According to the document, that interference "reached such extremes" that Bush "asked other governments not to recognize the fraudulent results of the May elections, a long time before the elections were held."

Recent Decline Noted in Ship-Flagging Requests

PA0809190589 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1746 GMT 8 Sep 89

[Text] No official note has been received regarding the banning of Panamanian-flagged ships from U.S. ports, although U.S. President George Bush suggested this measure. Hugo Torrijos, director of the General Consular and Ships Directorate, said that the number of ships requesting Panamanian flagging has declined recently.

[Begin Torrijos recording] The General Consular and Ship Directorate has exhibited steady growth despite the U.S. Government's aggression and low-intensity war. Our growth rate is higher than last year's, which was a very good year. This makes us believe that 1989 will also be a good year for us if we continue in this manner. I want to point out, however, that there are international rumors circulating among shipowners that there is a possibility that the U.S. Government will ban ships flying Panamanian flags. Such an action would threaten greatly the existence of the Panamanian merchant marine. We have been informed that the measure will not be taken, but the mere fact that it was published in several international newspapers has caused a certain degree of upheaval. I can even add that in the past 5 days—after news of the measure appeared in newspapers—there has been a reduction in the number of

Panamanian-flagged ships. This is understandable since nobody wants to take risks, and if newspapers announce a possible U.S. banning of our ships, nobody is going to flag their ships in Panama. They will wait for the situation to be resolved. We have been correcting these reports and have published articles in international media. The shipowners have also said that they do not expect the measure to be implemented soon, but, as things stand right now, anything can happen.

U.S. Soldier Kills FDP Member in Car Accident

PA0909000489 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2333 GMT 8 Sep 89

[Text] A member of the U.S. Armed Forces, which are illegally stationed on Panamanian territory, last night ran over a Panama Defense Forces [FDP] sergeant, killing him instantly. The incident occurred at 2100 [0200 GMT] on the Transisthmian Highway, near Viejo Veranillo. FDP Sergeant Sebastian Martinez Meneses, 37, was crossing the highway when he was struck down by U.S. soldier Manuel Carrera F., 29, who resides on Howard Air Force Base. Carrera was driving a Nissan Sunny station wagon, with license plate number 8-75739.

Preliminary reports indicate that the U.S. soldier was driving excessively fast when he hit and killed the Panamanian sergeant.

Police authorities have said that the accident will be handled according to Panamanian law.

LA REPUBLICA Report

PA0909171589 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 8 Sep 89 p 16, 8

[Text] Panamanian citizen Sebastian Meneses, 37, lost his life at 2030 on the night of 7 September after he was struck by a car driven by a U.S. citizen who works for one of the U.S. military bases stationed in the canal area in Panamanian territory.

The accident occurred on Simon Bolivar Avenue across from the main entrance to the University of Panama. According to witnesses' statements, speeding was the cause of the accident. Manuel Carrera, 29, a U.S. citizen of Peruvian origin, was driving a Nissan sedan.

Once again the irresponsibility of the U.S. soldiers has taken the life of another humble Panamanian. It is important to stress that U.S. soldiers acquire degenerate habits and soon become alcoholics or drug addicts. They show their addiction in the way they drive their cars.

This "steering-wheel murderer" has brought mourning to another humble Panamanian and has left a wife without her husband and children without their father.

Rodriguez Speaks to PRD Professionals on Goals

PA0909014889 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2306 GMT 8 Sep 89

[Speech by Provisional President Francisco Rodriguez to Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD) professionals at the Atlapa Convention Center in Panama City—live]

[Text] PRD President Mr Carlos Duque Jaen; First Lady Mrs Beatriz Ordaz de Rodriguez; PRD Secretary General Darinel Espino; First PRD Assistant Secretary General Dr Pedro Pereira; Messrs Ministers and Vice Ministers; Mr Assistant Comptroller General of the Republic; Messrs Directors of Autonomous Institutes; Eng Rafael Mezquita, national secretary of the PRD Professionals Front; Messrs Assistant Secretaries of the PRD Professionals Front; distinguished comrade members of the PRD Professionals Front; special guests; ladies and gentlemen; fellow party members:

Allow me, first, to thank you on behalf of my wife and myself for the generous welcome you have given us this afternoon, and for your expressions of sympathy, solidarity, and support upon assuming the dignified post of president of the Republic—a difficult post but we hope and wish to share it with all of you for the benefit of this country.

Our government has watched with great interest the results of most timely and praiseworthy initiatives by the PRD Professionals Front. We greatly value the efforts exerted by those who organized this event because it is our responsibility to direct not only this stage of our pledge with the nation's liberation and development but also to share it and submit it to a thorough and careful analysis.

The Panamanian nation has been subject to aggression in an open and visible way for the last 27 months. It has resulted in a decrease of approximately 27 percent in our economy, with more than 50,000 additional unemployed people and a painful increase in the country's poverty. Within the process of resisting the aggression, we have had to change our consumuption patterns, but we have also ascertained the strong and weak points of our economic structures.

We have ascertained that the alleged high dependence of our economic model, oriented toward export activities, vanished like a phantasm because the nation was able to withstand the effects of the aggression and keep its institutions operating. Electricity centers continue to produce energy; potable-water plants continue to produce water; communication systems remain unchanged; health services continue to operate despite limitations and the consequent negative effects on the community; the Panamanian state's judicial, administrative, and juridical systems continue to operate normally; and our economic and social structure is still standing even though economic activity has dropped to 60 percent of the levels prevailing before June 1987—thanks to the capacity of the sectors that were less affected by the impact of the aggression.

Our country serves mostly the internal market, which continues to demand goods and services that we produce. Even though this is evident for us and for those who are knowledgeable in the matter—which judges with impartiality and without being influenced by political passions—it is necessary to publicize even more what we have achieved through our efforts to maintain the economic and social system operating and to carry on.

Because we continued to receive foreign exchange from our exports even in the most difficult times, and continued to attract sufficient cash even though it was becoming scarce, and because our monetary system continued to function, and we acted in time to protect our banking system, the consequences of the aggressive attack have not been as destructive as they could have been, and the damage has not been an insurmountable obstacle in initiating our recovery.

In addition to this reality, which is in keeping with a Panamanian tradition, there also arose within the force of our liberation movement a much clearer, more rational, and enthusiastic vision of the need to exert ourselves even more to fulfill the internal market needs. We have withstood the aggression, and we did it protecting the most important institutions of the nation; and, what is more important, we protected the nation itself.

Today we can reaffirm before the world that we are prouder to be Panamanians. Nowadays that pride stirs a new emotion in us, because struggle and sacrifice make people's hearts noble.

Our economic and social potential is intact. We are a people with enormous potential to recover quickly from the damage that has been caused, but the speed of that recovery depends on our resolve and ability to adequately meet every social group's goals with regard to national development.

Our problems have made us see just how important it is to fully understand the concept of national liberation through development tasks, not only because liberation and development complement one another, but because the majority of our society demands it and has firmly requested effective solutions for very specific problems.

With the initiative the PRD professionals front has displayed, you have established yourselves as a vanguard group in the national debate. You have contributed valuable ideas and viable plans to solve the serious problems affecting our people.

With the best political resolve, my government has summoned all the social sectors in the country to debate and jointly adopt the most appropriate and calm decisions in order to promote national development and to preclude anyone's finding valid reasons to exclude himself. Youth, women, working people, businessmen, peasants, and professionals, especially those of us who form the national government, must unhesitatingly respond to the serious responsibility of preserving and consolidating our nation.

Nevertheless, at all times we must seek inspiration in Simon Bolivar's enlightening idea, which defined the best government as the one that generates the largest amount of well-being for its people.

In accordance with my message to the nation on 1 September, every administrative department must implement plans to achieve the following initial goals: recovery of production levels and economic activity, recovery of the employment level that existed in May 1987, priority attention to the sectors of the population which are in a state of critical poverty, and obtaining foreign exchange while taking care to strengthen the domestic market.

I agree with the Torrijista professionals that to achieve these goals we must recover the confidence of national and foreign businessmen who, as you all know, base their investments on the profits they may make, especially if they perceive security in a country's political, economic, and social fields.

Guidance will be necessary because there will be individuals who will only speak of bankruptcy and losses because they believe the path to power is through the greatest destruction possible.

The foreign aggression is also disadvantageous to the perception of security, but I, as a leader, and the nation's resolve can rapidly make Panama be viewed once again as a consolidated government with sufficient attractions to promote new foreign and national investments, which are necessary for national development.

How can we achieve this?

1. We will establish new standards in our foreign policy to adapt it to our real needs and to the challenges we face, based on a rational, realistic, and clear assessment of the forces ranged against us, and of the measures we can take to counter those forces.

We will adjust our foreign service to meet current demands, and we will develop a vigorous international image through the channels that are readily available, adapting our actions to the nature of the difficulties. Gradually, and with new strategies, we will make Panama's voice heard in all the world's countries, in different populist and government forums, taking advantage of the receptiveness that we have found among all organized progressive forces: labor unions, political parties, and business associations.

2. We will promote exports to nontraditional markets, with emphasis on Europe and Latin America, and we will promote the search for new technology in those countries.

3. We will actively promote Panama on the international market in order to attract direct foreign investment, which generates jobs and foreign exchange, in order to develop projects such as the port complex, the shopping complex, an industrial export center, storage centers, tourist centers, and, above all, for the development of the

areas that have reverted to Panama, with an all-encompassing view of their immense value to the world economy and world trade.

4. We will consolidate a model for the functioning of the Panamanian economy, eradicating those weaknesses that have become evident due to the aggression, but exercising constant concern to increase production for local consumption, because that will make us stronger, and our actions will be more just.

We will insist, with special emphasis, on cleaning up public finances. To make our economic system more dynamic, I propose to emphasize productivity and honesty in public administration, and make the necessary adjustments to the economy, with the cooperation of international credit organizations, but without submitting to unacceptable impositions.

5. For the development of mixed investments, the national government has lands, economic infrastructure, and human resources which will allow it to associate with local and foreign investors, with the intention of establishing new enterprises which will produce wealth and employment. This convention center, the Loma la Pava land, the Amador beaches, and the reverted areas are only some of the examples of good possibilities for mixed investments. If we act pragmatically and responsibly while recognizing the priority need to continue consolidating the nation, we will achieve that goal.

The possibilities are as infinite as human creativity. The subject has not been exhausted here. Today the PRD professionals have presented to me some recommendations that I propose to circulate so that we can analyze and discuss them within all the country's public institutions. In their proposal, the PRD professionals present 43 national objectives, 27 guidelines, and over 300 recommendations on various actions. Most of them do not require large-scale investments, and therefore can be implemented with committed effort, imagination, and professionalism, armed with the lessons of experience, enthusiasm, and generous and broad political resolve to carry out our unyielding decision to continue to be a nation.

The task is in our hands, and we will be able to complete it, especially if we set as our common slogan that we should not leave for tomorrow what can be done today. Thank you very much, comrades. [applause]

Rodriguez Addresses Meeting of Mayors, Governors

PA0909231389 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2040 GMT 9 Sep 89

[Speech by Provisional President Francisco Rodriguez at a seminar for mayors and governors in Chitre, Herrera Province—live]

[Text] Good afternoon, Government and Justice Minister Olmedo Miranda; Ministers and Deputy Ministers of State; Deputy Comptroller General; Herrera Province Governor Fabio Perez and Mrs Perez; Major Marcio Herazo, chief of the 4th Military Zone; governors; mayors; intendants; special guests; ladies and gentlemen.

I want to express my deep gratitude to the generous people of Herrera for this warm and surprising welcome. Our mission is based on the example you have set in the love you feel for, the honesty with which you work for, and your sense of nationalism in this land. Thank you, dear countrymen. [applause]

Ladies and gentlemen, during our first week in office, we have outlined the provisional government as the beginning of a different, renovating stage in the nation's history. We have pointed out that our main goal is to ensure national liberation and to enhance the country's democratization process through an effective, widespread participation, including all social and productive sectors. These concepts sometimes are too abstract. We must crystallize them in immediate, specific tasks so these ideas become more than mere words.

The republic we have in mind should represent true national democracy. Such a republic should have a form of government where only Panamanians can make decisions and apply development strategies, without foreign intervention or impositions that run counter to national interests. We want a truly Panamanian democracy, which can be an instrument for attaining sovereignty and national self-determination, reflecting the interests and desires of the nation's various social and productive sectors.

This national democracy must be rooted in the country's various communities and sectors, represent their natural leaders and coordinate them, and allow them to participate in the government. In addition, this democracy must eliminate and correct previous errors and deficiencies, as well as past backwardness and injustices.

The crisis that all of our people are enduring has been brought about by the merciless U.S. economic and political aggression against Panama. This crisis, however, is part of the general crisis that the other Latin American and Third World countries have been enduring.

The present situation gives us Panamanians an opportunity to determine our own future more independently. To do this, we must base our actions on this national, liberating concept of participation and democratization. That is why this seminar is so important from a strategic point of view for the governors and mayors across the country. With this seminar, we are initiating what should be a change of concept and a new working method in which local and community organization and participation, municipal activities, and provincial coordination must play a much more important role in the organization of the government's work in the future.

Since our nation began, the municipalities, as an expression of organized society, have played a fundamental role in Panama's history. Municipalities led the independence movement in 1821 and the formation of the republic in 1903.

Our country's structure and problems are now more complex. It is necessary to update and to expand municipal responsibilities and efficiency. Because of their role as representatives of the government at the district level, it falls on the municipalities to promote, coordinate, and supervise the proper implementation of national and provincial development programs through an active participation by the communities and sectors. It also falls on them to guarantee that the provincial and national plans are consistent with the realities and requirements of their respective districts.

This implies strengthening the municipalities' efforts by turning them into agents for promotion of the districts' development. To do so, they must be able to incorporate into their work the ordinary people and most progressive and oustanding socioeconomic groups in the districts by encouraging them to participate in community, municipal, and provincipal development programs without discrimination or sectarianism.

This means that the municipalities must develop a greater political, fiscal, and administrative capacity. They must strengthen their administrative, technical, and leadership mechanisms. However, they must not do so on the basis of expanding their bureaucracy but by improving their organization and quality. We must establish permanent and effective mechanisms for coordination among the municipal governments, provincial authorities, and the appropriate national institutions.

In addition, provisions must be made to establish joint programs between the central government and certain municipalities to promote specific programs with a provincial or municipal focus in keeping with provincial or regional priorities. To do this, it will be necessary to classify the municipalities in accordance with criteria based on their characteristics, such as their productive and fiscal capacity, availability of resources, infrastructure, population, poverty and underprivilege indexes, and so forth.

We must give special attention—which could include technical assistance, fiscal encouragement, and the like—to the municipalities that require it. This means that resources of the central government will have to be transferred to municipal governments so that some specific projects can be carried out or some particular services rendered. This will be done under central government supervision. The assistance could also include training and orientation programs for municipal officials.

As a result of this, the offices directing municipal employees—such as the planning, government, and justice ministries, and the Municipal Audit Department of the Comptroller's Office—will have to make functional adjustments. The idea is to have more effective communication among local government organizations. We want to stress that we want this to be done.

This means that municipal governments must have a more solid and representative structure—especially in regard to the functions of mayors, who will head the municipal governments; to the Municipal Council, as a legislative body; to corregidores, who have police functions at the corregimiento level; and to community boards, as the organization responsible for promoting the development of corregimientos. The functions of local boards in charge of the development of small communities that are administered by community boards, must be carefully planned to avoid duplication of efforts and inefficiency. Mayors will preside over the Municipal Council and will be members of provincial councils.

The Municipal Council will be composed of community representatives from district corregimientos. All districts must have a minimum of 5 representatives at the Municipal Council. If a district has less than five corregimientos, the necessary number of appointees will be appointed to fill the quota.

The districts of provincial capitals and of the country's most populated cities may have a larger number of aldermen. They may incorporate meritorious citizens who carry out dynamic economic or social activities in a district. All these persons must be residents of the district.

Community representatives, aldermen, and appointees will receive a salary to be established by the Executive Branch, taking into consideration the economic condition of each municipality and the fiscal situation of the country.

Community representatives must be true leaders in their corregimientos, honest [applause], and must enjoy prestige and credibility. They will preside over community boards and will be in charge of guaranteeing the organization of local boards.

While we carry out the necessary legislative reforms and while we reestablish a normal situation and the required normal conditions of sovereignty to carry out elections, community representatives will be provisionally assigned by the executive branch, which will take into consideration names proposed by the mayors. The mayors will provisionally assign the members of community and local boards from persons proposed by corregimiento representatives. Until we can hold elections, the ability to work and to get the population to work together will be the official basis for continuing in any given post.

Meanwhile, mayors have the responsibility of selecting the best people, of selecting those who are most acceptable to the people, without sectarianism or cronyism. [applause]

We will evaluate the mayors' performances to determine whether they should remain in office on this basis.

Province governors are responsible for intermunicipal coordination and for controlling and following up on the work of the mayors, who must coordinate municipal work plans with the governor.

Governors, as representatives of the executive branch, are the highest political and administrative authority in

the provinces. They will preside over provincial councils and ascertain whether the councils function adequately and in a coordinated fashion.

Provincial councils, through the governors, will directly present to the executive branch their projects and plans. The provincial councils will be made up of community representatives, aldermen or appointees, mayors, directors of provincial offices, military zone commanders, and the governor, who will preside over the council.

The work of governors and provincial councils must be in line with directives and projects decided on by the national government. The national government will consult with provincial councils on any bill affecting a particular province.

Funds assigned to provincial councils will be administered based on the rules of, and under the supervisory methods established by the Office of the Comptroller General.

We are seeking to decentralize several government functions and to expand the participation of provinces and municipalities in the public administration as an expression of the necessary democratization process. All this should also result in greater national support with regard to local and provincial problems and needs and make the efforts of the provincial and municipal administrations more consistent with the national policies and programs, as the national modernization process requires.

This orientation of our renewed republic makes it a priority task to establish mechanisms for community organization, consultation, and participation for the purpose of promoting a national grass-roots democracy, rooted in the communities and sectors that compose it. We are implementing this to open new avenues of integral development and to make the current economic, social, political, and cultural structures democratic.

This is basically a patriotic mission. It is a patriotic mission because we are undertaking it to defend our homeland, which has been attacked and is increasing the power behind its national resistance. However, it is also patriotic because, through these efforts, we are returning to the roots of our independence and to the historical makeup of the Panamanian state. As in 1981 and 1903, it is based on an organized and deliberative community, which is now represented through the patriotic democracy in the municipalities and projected now toward the renovation of the Torrijist system of people's power. [applause]

Distinguished governors and mayors, I feel really pleased. I am very pleased because of your attendance and your appointment. We are extremely pleased because Panamanian women are well represented in the mayors' offices. [applause] We are also pleased because we are meeting the great aspiration, the great hope—which has been pending for a long time—of retaking the path of dialogue and conversation, of returning to the countryside and the grass roots, according to the teachings of the extraordinary patriot who is still our beacon, who is still our inspiration—General Omar Torrijos Herrera. [applause]

Distinguished governors and mayors, you have been called upon to be on the frontlines in the restoration of our republic. I trust you will take part in this work with the sense of responsibility that the homeland demands of us. Thank you very much. [applause]

Arias Sees Weak Nonaligned Support for Regime

PA0809130189 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0330 GMT 8 Sep 89

[Text] Panama City, 7 Sep (DPA)—Panamanian opposition leader Ricardo Arias Calderon said today that "General Manuel Antonio Noriega's regime did not receive the pat on the back it had expected" from the meeting of nonaligned countries in Belgrade.

This, along with the "rejection" from the democratic countries in Latin America, Europe, and Asia, indicates that the international community already knows that what is happening in Panama is a "struggle carried out by a people who desire democracy against a dictatorship that is preventing the fulfillment of this desire," Arias Calderon added.

He said that a campaign called "Not a Single Cent More for the Dictatorship" is under way in which the people "refrain as much as possible from giving any money to the regime."

The opposition leader explained that the opposition campaign is based on the civil resistance methods used by the Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King.

Arias Calderon said that "there has been no message" from Gen Noriega for the opposition during the last few days, and he reiterated the opposition demand that Noriega step down as armed forces commander in order to achieve democracy in Panama.

All opposition candidates for legislator in the annulled May elections expressed support today for the decision of the leadership of the opposition alliance to reject the government's offer to allow the opposition to participate in the Legislation Commission that will be formed soon.

Arias Vows More Economic Pressure on Government

PA0809194489 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1814 GMT 8 Sep 89

[Text] Panama City, 8 Sep (ACAN-EFE)—The Panamanian opposition will not resort to insurrection to struggle against the regime, but will rather try to increase the economic and political blockade of the government on a national and international level, with the slogan: "Not one more cent to the dictatorship." This was explained today by opposition leader Ricardo Arias Calderon in a message to politicians opposed to the regime. Part of the

message expressed opposition to the withdrawal of foreign ambassadors accredited to Panama because, he explained: "We need witnesses." Arias asked Panamanians "not to buy more lottery tickets (state-run); not to bet in the casinos (state-run); and to put off as long as possible paying light, telephone, and water bills, and income taxes.

Also, he urged Panamanians not to buy the progovernment newspapers or products advertised therein.

The government has recognized that its revenue has been cut in half over the past 2 years, in view of the economic and political crisis and the U.S. sanctions decreed in March 1988 to force the resignation of Panama Defense Forces [FDP] Commander General Manuel Antonio Noriega, "strongman" of the country. Concerning criticism of the opposition in view of its apparent passivity to the installation last week of the de facto government, Arias explained that the adversaries of the regime cannot promote an "insurrection" because "this type of struggle has led to undemocratic governments in Cuba and Nicaragua."

Guillermo Endara, another opposition leader, told ACAN-EFE that criticism of the alleged passivity was uncalled for and that "a peaceful struggle will be maintained against the dictatorship, which is isolated and devoid of a political platform."

Progovernment politician Carlos Duque said that the appeals "not to pay taxes" are part of the U.S. "low intensity war" against the regime.

According to Arias, the opposition does not want the international community to break relations with Panama, "because this would not permit us to have witnesses here and we need to have the world watching us."

"Today, all this regime cares about are two things—hard force and money to be able to meet the next payroll (of government officials)," Arias stated.

Arias explained that the government already has big problems in paying the employees' wages and said that the internal economic blockade will increase the delays in meeting the payrolls and thus the regime will lose the support of its own officials.

Arias rejected the opinions of those who claim that the adversaries of the regime are incapable of defeating it.

According to Arias, the opposition, through its peaceful struggle, has achieved important progress, such as changing the image of the regime, both here and abroad, "radically" isolating it.

The Panamanian Government's image, he added, was "ambiguous" 3 years ago. Now "it has the image of a repressive, corrupt dictatorship" which is why it has the support of the "basically internal military nucleus" and several small civilian sectors. The opposition's objective now is "to cause the internal nucleus of the regime to crumble," Arias stated, adding that he is optimistic that this will be achieved "sooner, more than later."

CODEPADI Night Vigils Said Suspended

PA0809153389 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1110 GMT 8 Sep 89

[Text] Hernan Hernandez, CODEPADI [Committees for the Defense of the Fatherland and Dignity] coordinator in Cemento Bayano [state-run cement factory], has announced that effective 7 September, CODEPADI members currently providing surveillance at various government agencies will suspend their night vigils.

[Begin Hernandez recording] At a meeting with members of the general coordinating board in our company, we have decided to give our companeros a rest. We have reduced the security level from that of recent days. However, we are ready for any eventuality at any moment.

I would like to thank all our co-workers who unselfishly made it possible to maintain the 100 percent vigilance of our company over the past few days.

At this time, the COPAPUDIP [expansion unknown], the general coordinating board for the Dignity Battalions and CODEPADI in the Province of Panama is holding a meeting to case the vigil. Yesterday, we were told that we could reduce security, which we are doing. [end recording]

Antiriot Police Break Up Student Demonstrations

PA0809225589 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2154 GMT 8 Sep 89

[Text] Panama City, 8 Sep (ACAN - EFE)—Panamanian antiriot police units today ended secondary school student demonstrations in this capital. The students were protesting the indefinite closing of schools where students held street riots this week.

Students from the Jose Remon Cantera, Richard Newman, and Isabel Herrera Obaldia Schools, as well as from the National Institute (which was closed on 6 September), blocked an important Panama City avenue for several minutes, official sources have reported.

A spokesman for the Education Ministry has told ACAN-EFE that the police used tear gas to restore order when students erected barricades and momentarily blocked traffic on the avenue.

According to the source, Jose Remon Cantera School supervisors ordered the school vacated and are currently evaluating the situation to determine who is responsible for today's events. On 6 September, National Institute students held antigovernment street demonstrations.

The America Institute, another school which organized internal school protests over the closing of the National Institute, was closed indefinitely on 7 September.

Education Ministry sources have said they have no reports on anyone being injured or arrested as a result of the demonstrations.

The Jose Remon Cantera School has the largest student enrollment in the country (approximately 4,500 students). It is located next to the two secondary schools that initiated today's demonstrations.

According to the same sources, the Richard Newman School is currently operating normally. At the Isabel Herrera Obaldia School, however, authorities ordered several hundred students to leave the building while approximately 1,000 others continued to attend classes.

'Clandestine Signal' Airs Anti-Noriega Slogans

PA1009194289 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1851 GMT 10 Sep 89

[Text] Panama City, 10 Sep (DPA)—A clandestine signal interfered with a Panamanian radio station, FM 99, last night and aired slogans against General Manuel Antonio Noriega, claiming he had brought the Cuban, Libyan, and Nicaraguan military to Panama "under the pretext of confronting an invasion of Panama."

A man who claimed he was a member of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] said they did not want to become "puppets of communists such as Daniel Ortega and Fidel Castro, and, even less, allies of a fanatical madman such as Al-Qadhdhafi."

The clandestine broadcast also said that "Gen Noriega'a luck will not last forever" and that "all who support him will have to appear before the courts of justice some day."

Interferences on local radio stations have been intensified in recent weeks, and Panamanian Government spokesmen believe the clandestine broadcasts originate from a U.S. Army base on the banks of the Panama Canal.

Several days ago the U.S. Army protested to the FDP over "the deliberate electronic interference" on the radio and television network which the U.S. Army operates in the canal area.

Media Review of Political, Economic Events

PA0809191289

[Editorial Report] The following is a review of material from Panamanian and regional media related to the current political and economic situation in Panama. This review draws solely on broadcast and press reports monitored by FBIS Panama Bureau. The review covers the period from 4 to 8 September and includes some items that have been processed in fuller form.

The Regime's New Team

The cabinet of Provisional President Francisco Rodriguez is comprised largely of veteran government functionaries along with some hold-overs from the Solis Palma administration. All are members of the Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD) or other progovernment parties. The two main economic posts in the cabinet—Finance & Treasury and Planning & Economic Policy—remained with the incumbents, Orville Goodin and Gustavo Gonzalez. Gonzalez is also acting foreign minister pending the appointment of a permanent replacement for Jorge Ritter, who resigned shortly before the change in government.

According to past press reports, Finance Minister Goodin was first appointed to the ministry in October 1978 with the rank of vice finance minister. Goodin held the full finance minister portfolio once before, from April 1982 until the summer of 1983.

Planning Minister Gustavo Gonzalez also remains in a position that he held under a previous administration. Gonzalez was named planning minister in September 1978 and remained there until late 1980. In January 1979 he took on a concurrent position as member of the Executive Committee of the Panama Canal Authority. In February 1984 he became Presidency minister in the administration of Jorge Illueca, a position that he held until President Nicolas Ardito-Barletta took office in September 1984.

Both Goodin and Gonzalez assumed their present positions in April 1988 when then-President Solis Palma reshuffled the economic portfolios in his cabinet in the face of a continuing cash crunch.

Foreign Affairs Commission

A new element in the Rodriguez government is the ad hoc Foreign Affairs Advisory Commission that was installed on 6 September. Led by Acting Foreign Minister Gonzalez, the 10-member group will serve temporarily in the absence of a Foreign Ministry leadership to advise Provisional President Rodriguez on external relations. Included in the commission are Romulo Escobar Bethancourt, Panama's representative to the OAS mediating mission; Captain Severino Mejia, executive director of the Panama Treaty Affairs Executive Directorate; and former foreign ministers and ambassadors to the OAS Aquilino Boyd and Juan Antonio Tack. Boyd also served as Panamanian ambassador to the United States beginning in 1982.

Gonzalez told RPC television on 6 September that the commission is reviewing "the situations emerging from the installation of the new government, particularly the recognition by friendly countries and the U.S. insistence on trying to provoke some sort of diplomatic isolation of Panama." In a separate statement on a "diplomatic offensive" to be conducted by the commission, Gonzalez said that the Foreign Ministry would counter unfavorable international media reporting by preparing "information that we want to send to friendly countries" and also making this information available to the local and foreign press. The daily newspaper MATUTINO reported on 7 September that the commission is drafting

a report that will "establish a foreign policy in accordance with the principles outlined by Provisional President Rodriguez."

Legislative Assembly Replaced by Commission

Panama's defunct Legislative Assembly will be replaced by a 41-member Legislative Commission, according to press reports. The composition of the appointed lawmaking body has not yet been announced, but it is expected to be controlled by the PRD with some representation of the minor progovernment parties that joined the PRD in forming the National Liberation Coalition (COLINA). Members of the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance (ADOC) have refused to participate in the legislative commission. According to the 7 September issue of CRITICA, the commission will meet five times a week in the chambers of the former assembly. CRITICA noted that the commission members "have an enormous task awaiting them," including the drafting of a new electoral code for future elections.

New Government Faces Formidable Problems

While regime-controlled media continue to describe Francisco Rodriguez as a competent professional and to defend the creation of the provisional government, media editorials and reports have underscored the numerous problems facing the new administration, particularly with regard to Panama's economic future.

Press comment lamenting the erosion of Panama's economy and the specter of rising unemployment is frequently coupled with denunciations of U.S. actions to withhold Panama Canal tolls and other revenues. The daily MATUTINO said on 4 September that the provisional president will immediately have to face the "cruel reality" of the unemployment problem. The newspaper noted that many workers have already been laid off and that government moves to reduce state payrolls "would place many families in desperation." Another MATUTINO commentator described the U.S. policy of economic sanctions as "the merciless and unjust outrages caused by the most powerful nation on earth" but added that Rodriguez has the discipline and experience to meet these challenges. CRITICA on 5 September used the occasion of a visit by a group of U.S. Vietnam veterans to observe that the former servicemen have learned firsthand of the plight of Panamanians "who are enduring hunger and misery as a result of the merciless U.S. aggression" against the country.

In contrast to the general media condemnation of U.S. policy, LA REPUBLICA columnist Mario Augusto Rodriguez on 6 September wrote that he detected some reason for hope in President Bush's most recent statements on Panama. In an editorial entitled "Differences and Points of Convergence," Rodriguez said that President Bush "did not use the same arrogant tone he has adopted on previous occasions. He repeated his decisions and even sounded firmer in some ways. However, he spoke in a more moderate tone compared with his previous references to our country and officials." Rodriguez said that he had the "impression" that relations between the two countries will improve, particularly if President Bush abandons "sanctions, aggression, and military threats..." and acknowledges that "the only path open to him is negotiations."

The Economy

In addition to ample media commentary on political-economic issues, Panamanian sources have given broad coverage to official and nonofficial statements on the condition of the country's economy. The independent station Radio Exitosa has become the most frequent source for nongovernment assessments of this sort. In a 7 September broadcast, the radio carried remarks by Jose Chirino, president of the Association of Panamanian Industrialists, who said that "there is no solution in sight to the lack of credit available for the private sector in the short or long term." Chirino added that he dids not believe the provisional government could offer any help immediately "because, from any domestic or international perspective, everything seems to be pressures from abroad and within the country." He noted that "the latest pressures against Panama from abroad, which began on 1 September, already have gained a little more ground. They are stronger. This hinders any effort by this new government to try to implement any economic or political program to benefit industry." Chirino concluded that "it is very hard for any country, especially a country as small as ours, to succeed by itself."

Meanwhile, the government station Panama City Radio Nacional on 7 September reported that a PRD group known as the "Professionals Front" has drawn up a socioeconomic development plan for Panama that will be presented to the provisional president on 8 September. According to the radio, the three basic principles of the plan are to strengthen the monetary system through the free circulation of the dollar and by "permitting the use of other strong currencies such as the yen and deutschmark"; to emphasize the development of the banking and financial systems; and to define a policy for foreign debt payments.

Argentina

U.S. Base, Nuclear Dump Installation Denied

PY0809222289 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1814 GMT 8 Sep 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 8 Sep—Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo denied today that a proposal has been received for the installation of a U.S. military base in the country and that the government is analyzing the proposed installation of a nuclear waste "dump," which, he added, would be "very dangerous."

Cavallo made this declaration at the end of a ceremony in which the new Argentine ambassadors and foreign service officials were sworn in.

The ceremony was held in the Golden Hall of the San Martin Palace. Amalia Lacroze Fortabat, Juan Jose Zanola, Abelardo Ramos, Julian William Kent, Julian Licastro, Alberto Brito Lima, and the president's brother Munir Menem, among other, took the oath of office.

The foreign minister says that when President Carlos Menem meets with his U.S. counterpart, George Bush, late this month he will thank him for the U.S. good offices in bringing about a raprochement with the United Kingdom, and said that henceforth "negotiations between Argentina and Great Britain will be conducted bilaterally."

He then denied that talks with U.S. Government officials have included the possibility of installing a U.S. military base in Patagonia. He dismissed reports that the government is considering installing a nuclear waste dump in that region. Cavallo added that, in his view, the construction of a "nuclear dump" would be "very dangerous" for the Patagonian ecological system.

During President Menem's recent trip to Yugoslavia to participate in the nonaligned countries assembly, he offered to mediate in the Middle East conflict. Minister Cavallo noted that "the opinion of the parties involved" must be heard before "moving ahead" with that initiative.

Joint Statement With UK Released in London

PY0909150089 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 0200 GMT 9 Sep 89

[Text] Argentina and British parliamentarians fully support a quick resumption of relations between the two countries.

The joint statement highlights President Menem's proposal, which indicates that the placement of the sovereignty issue under an umbrella does not mean that demands are being made on the positions of the two countries. [sentence as heard]

The statement released today in London is the result of parliamentarians' talks in Great Britain held within the framework of the World Interparliamentary Union meeting.

Senator Eduardo Menem, the head of the Argentine delegation, highlighted in his address the fact that our country is willing to seek a solution to the various conflictive topics.

Menem, who is also the provisional president of the Senate, also revealed that a British trade delegation will visit the country in November, and he added that there is great interest in the mining sector.

Cavallo on UK Ties, Resignation of Deputy

PY1009223589 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1208 GMT 10 Sep 89

[Text] Cordoba, 10 Sep (TELAM)—Argentine Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo has said that "the United Kingdom has told us that it is not very interested in a formal cessation of hostilities by Argentina since they have verified that since Menem assumed power in Argentina, the political power is controlling the Armed Forces." [sentence as received]

Cavallo added that the British objections during the Alfonsin administration were based on the messages sent by the Argentine Navy to ships sailing near the archipelago in the South Atlantic.

Cavallo said that those messages "suggested to the British Government that Alfonsin was not controlling the Armed Forces," hence the Argentine decision to reach an agreement with the Defense Ministry and the Armed Forces to cease such messages.

The foreign minister reported that "3 days after the messages stopped, the United Kingdom announced that it would resume negotiations over the Malvinas Islands." He added that "Argentina has no problem with declaring a cessation of hostilities."

In statements to the media in Cordoba, the foreign minister said that after the meetings in Madrid on 16 and 17 October "it will be possible to make progress toward the normalization of relations" with the United Kingdom.

Regarding the upcoming meeting between President Menem and U.S. President Bush, Cavallo said that it will be centered "on the position both countries may take toward contributing to peace," particularly in Central America and the Middle East.

Cavallo said that "the atmosphere of cooperation and peace throughout the whole world is very favorable for the growth and progress of countries like Argentina."

Asked about the resignation of Deputy Foreign Minister Archibaldo Lanus, Cavallo said that there were "not disagreements on concepts" but rather "organizational" disagreements between them.

Rapanelli Denies Reports of Cabinet Resignations

PY0909010089 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2353 GMT 8 Sep 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 8 Sep (TELAM)—Economy Minister Nestor Rapanelli tonight "flatly" denied reports of resignations by cabinet ministers.

Commenting on the headlines published today by a local evening newspaper [not further identified], Rapanelli said at Government House that "there are no resignations within the cabinet; this report is entirely unfounded."

Deputy Foreign Minister Resigns

PY0809020289 Buenos Aires TELAM Spanish 0100 GMT 9 Sep 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 8 Sep (TELAM)—It has been officially reported that President Carlos Menem tonight accepted the resignation of Deputy Foreign Minister Archibaldo Lanus. The report adds that the president offered Lanus another "important" post within the Foreign Ministry.

Accompanied by Lanus, Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo went to the press room at Government House to make the announcement. Cavallo said he had had "no personal confrontation" with Lanus, whom he held "in very high regard."

Veto of Emergency Bill Articles Planned

PY0909122989 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 0200 GMT 9 Sep 89

[Report from Government House by Marta Lopez]

[Text] The national executive branch will veto the entire chapter of the Economic Emergency Bill dealing with penalties for tax evaders. This information was released after a cabinet meeting presided over by President Carlos Menem and attended by Vice President Eduardo Duhalde, all the ministers, Senator Oraldo Britos, and Deputy Jose Luis Manzano.

The cabinet meeting resolved to amend the system of severance pay for workers with access to labor-management bergaining mechanisms. This aspect is provided for in Article 48 of the Economic Emergency Bill. The executive branch will push this amendment to preserve quality among workers and businessmen.

The decision to veto the chapter on punishing tax evaders was motivated by the bill's failure to take into account the president's decision to make tax evasion a nonbailable offense. The sources indicated that this aspect will be included in the draft bill on tax reform that the national executive branch will soon submit to Congress.

(Vito Tansi), IMF director for fiscal affairs, has visited Buenos Aires to act as a consultant to government members working on a project to reduce the number of taxes and to simplify the tax collection system in order to better control evasion. When that project is completed, efforts to increase the severity of punishemnt for tax evaders will be resumed.

The government also plans to launch a national petrochemical plan aimed at attracting investments in this field and will enact a legally enforced social agreement in keeping with Article 30 of the Economic Emergency Bill.

The executive branch also plans to submit a bill to Congress providing legal safeguards, international prices for raw materials, and tax regulations that will ensure the ability of local petrochemical industries to compete on the international market.

Colombia

Barco Writes Bush; Plan To Solve Coffee Crisis

PA0809232889 Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 8 Sep 89

[Text] President Virgilio Barco Vargas has proposed a 3-point plan to the U.S. Government to overcome the international coffee crisis. In a letter to U.S. President George Bush, the Colombian chief of proposed the following actions:
1. To reactivate the import quota system beginning on 1 October, which would make it necessary to extend the current agreement along with the other clauses 1 more year.
2. To adopt, on the part of the importers, effective customs control mechanisms through emergency measures.
3. To negotiate immediately a new international coffee agreement that would enter into effect on 1 October 1990. To make it more effective, the participation of [words indistinct] would be actively sought.

President Barco said that his initiative is [words indistinct] governments of the European Economic Community with which negotiations have been held following the collapse of the agreement 2 years ago.

In his letter to the U.S. President, the Colombian head of state said that the agreement could not be extended during the last negotiations because of the United States' lack of political will to do so.

Bush Antidrug Position Termed 'Step Forward'

PA1009175289 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 7 Sep 89 p 5-a

[Editorial: "A Step Forward"]

[Text] Has President Bush taken a step forward? One has to say yes. Although a lot was expected of his speech, the important thing is that he has established a position regarding the drug traffic in the United States, a position that seems to entail important commitments for the U.S. Government.

In the beginning, when the magnitude of the drug problem first became apparent, the U.S. posture was extremely simplistic: Producers of the drugs were to

blame. It was our peasants who were perverting the Nordic youths, and the evil could be cured by eliminating the supply. We Colombians began to act in line with that premise.

Years later, the elementary and obvious thesis that the origin of the entire problem lay in demand finally penetrated U.S. governmental spheres. Hence the famous speech by President Reagan's wife that marked a change of attitude in U.S. authorities.

However, there continued to be a notable imbalance between the struggle being waged by Colombia and the sophistic system for repression of the drug trade established in the United States. Proof of this is that now there has been an offer to carry out a truly dynamic action, similar to the one that has been under way in our country for years. This includes not only the open use of public forces in U.S. territory, but also a total ban on traffic in and consumption of drugs. All of this is accompanied by new announcements about more severe penalties, including the death sentence.

This is where President Bush has apparently taken a step forward. Only yesterday the U.S. press noted the limited economic dimensions of the plan announced in Bush's speech. Considering the magnitude of the problem that is being addressed, Washington columnists said that what was being offered was "peanuts," which, using a Colombian term that has been accepted by the Spanish Academy, could well be translated as small change [lupias].

Indeed, the numbers that have been mentioned during the past few weeks go beyond the usual calculations of the factors in our economy. The drug problem encompasses complex situations involving, not only the mechanics of the drug trade, but also the social structure of large sectors of the population that will be greatly affected. In view of this, it is not possible to ignore the fact that the $90 million that will be added to the $65 million already offered to Colombia is a trifling compensation.

It would seem to be more constructive to note the change of emphasis in repression announced in President Bush's speech. It involves many risks and inconveniences that will surely disrupt public peace, as has occurred among us for many years. The U.S. people and their institutions will have to accept the consequences of a situation of war and will have to face up to the type of corruption and selective violence that is typical of traffickers with superabundant economic power. Older people will remember a similar situation in the United States 50 years ago, which led to such a state of tension that it ultimately resulted in the legitimization of alcohol consumption for an indefinite period.

Presumably, if the United States and Colombia take the same position and adopt similar fighting tactics, they will arrive at a mutual understanding that will put a halt to the visible deterioration of our relations. We could then embark upon a true road of cooperation that would permit us to approach, with the same criteria, the solution of a problem that will affect us equally from now on.

Drug Program Praised

PA1009200389 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 7 Sep 89 p 4-A

[Editorial: "We Are Not Alone"]

[Text] When U.S. President Bush addressed the American people on the night of 5 September, the Colombian people perceived a direct call to Colombia in some of his statements. Bush is proving himself to be a calm statesman who makes clear decisions. In his historical speech—his first address to the people since taking office—he informed the American people and the entire world that the most powerful nation in the world is going to wage an all-out war on drugs. Bush's position is not philanthropic or unbiased. Of all the nations, Colombia and the United States are perhaps the ones that have suffered the effects of drug trafficking most intensely. That is why the United States is joining the war and fighting on two fronts: one, the fundamental front of domestic consumption; and two, the front that directly involves cocaine-producing American nations.

Concrete and rigorous measures to combat the cocaine market exist, and people all over the world are demanding their implementation. Thus, Mr Bush announced severe sanctions against the legion of U.S. consumers addicted to the horrible drug. The offensive is being realized on both fronts. When consumption drops, production will also drop; and the problem will begin to fade away. Economic aid, which will be slow in coming at first, will gradually and appreciably increase as the days go by, and so will military aid, which includes logistics, weapons, and information. Bush unreservedly offers solidarity and the eventual deployment of U.S. troops if the countries consider it necessary. In this difficult and almost exasperating struggle with the drug lords, international aid is as urgent as the people's willingness to confront the struggle.

Bush is not an impassioned or fiery orator, but his speech was excellent. He showed emotion and determination when he announced the steps his government plans to take. I cannot forget the moment when he held a package of cocaine and told his people how important it is not to use it so that in the near future it will stop being an evil drug and become instead a simple combination of chemicals. Bush was brash with his compatriots, but he addressed the Colombian people and their president with respect and affection.

As incomprehensible as it may seem, negative and harmful voices are being raised against the repression of the cocaine producers. They say that the aid is almost ridiculous, they make special efforts to foster false nationalism during these difficult times for the country, and they claim that the aid the United States is offering Latin America is dangerous—by all means an extravagant thought. Even though they are made in apparent good faith, these are strange remarks to be appearing in newspaper headlines or in simple personal opinions. The

individuals who make such remarks remind me of the fateful "fifth column" that did so much harm to the allies during World War II.

The Colombians can be optimistic despite the sad moments of a situation that seems endless. We have a good ally, a comrade who is noble and especially determined to save his country and the world from a cruel scourge. The United States will take part in this war as a nation anxious to preserve its freedoms and honesty. President Bush has encouraged America. The Colombian people accept his help without any complications whatsoever, but we will be asking for more and more help in the economic field, such as the resumption of the coffee pact so that we can begin to see the end of this dark tunnel.

Criticized at UP Convention

PA1109031089 Paris AFP in Spanish 2347 GMT 9 Sep 89

[Text] Bogota, 9 Sep (AFP)—Today, foreign observers attending the second national convention of the Colombian Patriotic Union (UP—communist) harshly criticized the U.S. Government for its antidrug policy and for having promoted the breakup of the world coffee pact.

Over 800 UP delegates from throughout the country and guests from 20 Latin American and European countries are participating in the convention.

Representatives from Panama, Peru, Nicaragua, El Salvador, France, Italy, and Cuba, among others, agreed that drug trafficking has its origins in the tolerant attitude of the United States, which accepts deposits of drug trafficking money and produces chemical products used to process drugs and the weapons and vehicles used in that illegal activity.

Similarly, the representatives condemned the government headed by George Bush for having promoted the breakup of the coffee pact. The guests added that the breakup of the pact severely affected the interests of Colombia and other Latin American coffee-producing countries.

The UP, created in 1984 as a result of the truce pact signed between the self-styled Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC—pro-Soviet) and the government, will proclaim its candidate for the 1990 elections, will elect a new board of directors, and will define its government platform.

The UP delegates will choose between two hopefuls—Bernardo Jaramillo and Diego Montana, UP president and vice president, respectively.

The convention will also discuss the possibilities of forming coalitions with the majority Liberal and Conservative Parties, although it is expected that the UP will participate in the elections with its own candidate and government program.

The peace policy of Liberal President Virgilio Barco's government and the actions of paramilitary groups, which since the creation of the UP have killed 850 of its militants, will also be discussed.

The UP convention that is being held at the Gonzalo Jimenez de Quesada Convention Center under discreet but heavy security measures, will conclude on Sunday 10 September.

Peru's Garcia on Panama, Bush Drug Speech

PA0909045889 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2304 GMT 8 Sep 89

[Text] Bogota, 8 Sep (EFE)—Peruvian President Alan Garcia said in Bogota today that it has been confirmed that in Panama there are "puppet governments which are crudely designated and then removed."

Garcia, who made a 6-hour technical stopover in Bogota on his flight from Belgrade, where he attended the Nonaligned Movement summit, visited Colombian President Virgilio Barco, with whom he had lunch and to whom he expressed solidarity in the antidrug struggle being waged in Colombia.

Asked by reporters, Garcia said his ambassador to Panama has been recalled. "This does not mean, however, that relations between the two countries have been broken." He advocated Latin American "governments that represent their peoples' wills through elections."

"We have confirmed that there are puppet governments in Panama and that they are crudely designated and removed. We Latin Americans cannot accept this procedure," he added.

He also said that the Peruvian Government has not recognized the new Panamanian Government, and pointed out that the antidrug plan launched by U.S. President George Bush, "although late, should support the affected countries more strongly."

Garcia also urged a presidental summit, including European countries, "for true international coordination against drug trafficking."

While in Bogota, and shortly before boarding his flight for Peru, Garcia visited EL ESPECTADOR's offices, which were damaged by a bomb on 2 September, and expressed his sympathy to the paper's directors.

Supports Hemispheric Meeting

PA0909021089 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 Sep 89

[Text] On his way home, Peruvian President Alan Garcia today stopped over in Bogota, where he met with President Virgilio Barco and visited EL ESPECTADOR

newspaper offices, which were dynamited by drug traffickers last weekend. Apparently the Peruvian Government agrees that Cartagena can host a hemisphere presidents' antidrug summit proposed by U.S. President George Bush.

After meeting with Barco, Garcia told reporters that a commission made up of representatives of drug-affected countries—Bolivia, Colombia, Peru, and the United States—should be formed but that Europe should also participate.

[Begin Garcia recording] If a European representative is absent from the talks on drug trafficking and drug addiction, it will be as if one leg of the table is missing. [end recording]

Garcia also visited Luis Carlos Galan's grave and EL ESPECTADOR's debris and expressed to the paper's owners his sympathy for them because of the terrorist attacks. Over a cup of Colombian coffee, he talked with the journalists about drug trafficking, saying: My country is not as badly threatened as Colombia because we do not have drug cartels in Peru.

Judge Frees Suspected Drug Cartel Member

PA0909172989 Paris AFP in Spanish 1652 GMT 9 Sep 89

[Text] Bogota, 9 Sep (AFP)—It was learned here today that a judicial order has freed Luis Fernando Galeano Berrio (alias El Negro), who is accused of being one of the financial officials of the Medellin Cartel and who is subject to extradition to the United States.

Galeano Berrio was arrested on 25 August in Antioquia Department during the offensive the military forces have launched against the drug trafficking "barons." He was released on 7 September, but this was not learned until today.

Medellin criminal investigation judge 40 [juez 40] issued the release order because no specific charge was filed against him.

The judge said his office did not receive a request from the U.S. Government for the extradition of Galeano Berrio, who apparently was in charge of accounting for drug kingping Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha (alias the Mexican).

In addition, Galeano Berrio is also said to be the mastermind of the murder of a councilman in Cordoba Department and of being involved in a frustrated plan to kill an individual linked to the Cali drug cartel, which competes against the Medellin Cartel for the U.S. drug market.

Extradition of Alleged Drug Trafficker Approved

PA1009171189 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1612 GMT 10 Sep 89

[Excerpts] Bogota, 10 Sep (DPA)—The Colombian Government has authorized the extradition of alleged drug trafficker Elena Beatriz Zuniga to the United States, while soldiers and policemen continue staging intensive operations throughout the country to capture the "lords" of cocaine and confiscate their property.

According to the Bogota morning paper EL ESPECTADOR, President Virgilio Barco Vargas and the ministers of the National Drug Council signed a resolution last night authorizing Zuniga's extradition so that she can face drug trafficking charges in U.S. federal courts. [passage omitted]

It was learned that Zuniga will be sent to the United States "soon" amid strict security measures to prevent attacks by the the mafia, which has sworn to kill 10 Colombian judges for every drug trafficker that is extradited. [passage omitted]

Court Must Rule on New Legal Decrees by 27 Oct

PA0809204189 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 6 Sep 89 pp 1-A, 3-A

[Text] According to law, Supreme Court justices have until 27 October to issue a ruling on the extradition of Colombians, the length of time citizens can be held under arrest, and other measures whose legality has become the source of great controversy both inside and outside Colombia.

The extended deadline granted to the attorney general and the Supreme Court is based on Decree 1888, issued as a result of the State of Siege, which—as far as the judicial calendar is concerned—reduces the workweek to 5 days with Saturdays as nonworking days.

The implementation of Decree 1888 means that the judicial process will be delayed 45 additional days each year.

Using the powers granted by Article 121 of the Constitution, the government issued six decrees on 19 August to curb drug trafficking and organized violence. These decrees made extradition a simple administrative procedure, authorized the seizure and occupation of property owned by suspected drug traffickers, restricted the possession of weapons, increased jail terms for those who recruit workers at gunpoint, and allowed Judicial Police to hold citizens under arrest for up to 7 working days.

The Presidency's General Secretariat sent the decrees to the Supreme Court on 22 August, and the time allowed for a final ruling began to run as soon as the Secretariat received them, as established by the Constitution.

Article 214 states that in actions aimed at establishing the constitutionality or unconstitutionality of laws and decrees, "the attorney general and the Constitutional Chamber will each have 30 days to issue an opinion and explanation; and the Supreme Court will have 60 days to make a decision." According to the same article, failure to comply with these deadlines "will be considered improper behavior, which is punishable under the law."

Meanwhile, Article 121 reduces these deadlines to one-third when making a decision on decrees issued by the government under a state of siege.

A recent decree that established a working day without a lunch break for judicial offices and limited the workweek to Monday through Friday increased the actual working time.

Consequently, according to this decree, the deadline that the attorney general has to issue an opinion about the constitutionality or unconstitutionality of all the decrees or portions of them has not expired.

Chamber President Urges Talks With Traffickers

PA0809214289 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 31 Aug 89 p 8A

[Text] In the 30 August session, Norberto Morales Ballesteros, president of the Chamber of Representatives, said that he favors a dialogue with drug traffickers.

According to Morales Ballesteros, the only way to end this war is to defeat the drug traffickers and then convince them to abide by the law.

He noted: "I have always advocated dialogue throughout my political life. I talk even with my worst enemies. I never shut the door to dialogue because I believe that the country belongs to all Colombians."

Morales Ballesteros recalled how in the past a dialogue with the guerrillas was considered impossible. The guerrilla movement was called a dark and criminal force. Therefore, if we are already talking with the armed groups, we can do the same with drug traffickers, he added.

He stated: "I do not see why we should be ashamed because of this. We either totally defeat them within this war or seek the possibility of a dialogue as proposed by the mayor of Medellin. I think it is better to shake a hand to see if it is possible for Colombia to have a moment of peace."

Commander Supports Government Decision on Mayors

PA0809185489 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1735 GMT 8 Sep 89

[Report Liliana Vigoya]

[Text] Colombian Army Commander Jesus Armando Arias Cabrales has said that the decision to annul Decree 2013, which authorized the appointment of military mayors in cities experiencing public order disturbances, was carefully thought out by the Colombian Government.

[Begin Arias recording] The annulment of that decree is a government measure and therefore we have no right to argue with it. We must simply fulfill the orders given by the government. [end recording]

As for the 100 U.S. experts who were sent to Colombia to teach our Armed Forces personnel to use the combat equipment that will be used to fight terrorism in the country, Arias said:

[Begin recording] We have not received armed personnel destined to participate in combats. We are receiving technical support and we are being trained to be ready to operate and maintain the equipment we have received. [end recording]

Possible Military Drug Corruption Viewed

PA0909013389 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 1730 GMT 8 Sep 89

[Report by Carlos Arturo Paez]

[Text] During a ceremony involving promotions and decorations at the Military Police Battalion headquarters, Army Commander General Jesus Armando Arias Cabrales said that the military forces have never relaxed the offensive against the drug traffickers. He asserted that the authorities are waiting for a decision by the Tribunal for Public Order [Tribunal de Orden Publico] regarding the assets that have been confiscated thus far.

Arias Cabrales said he could not deny the drug traffickers have infiltrated the Army's ranks, but said the cases are under investigation.

[Begin Arias Cabrales recording] It is quite feasible that some people are linked not only to the military ranks, the police ranks, and the government echelons, but to anyone who may at some point engage in these activities, perhaps because of some ideological or economic motivation.

Fortunately, however, the military forces, the national police, and all institutions have their regulations, rules of discipline, and penal norms with which to tackle this type of problem. [end recording]

Finally, he denied the Army has exerted pressure to have the posts of mayors in some municipalities to be turned over to it.

Army Seizes More Properties in Medellin

PA0909180389 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1650 GMT 9 Sep 89

[Text] Bogota, 9 Sep (DPA)—Colombian Defense Ministry spokesmen reported today that Army troops dealt a harsh blow to the Medellin drug cartel over the past few hours. The Army troops seized five farms owned by Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha, the second most important Medellin drug cartel chief.

According to official reports, the troops arrived at a rural area in central Boyaca Port Municipality and raided five farms which, according to preliminary evidence, were used by the mafia to train rightist paramilitary groups.

According to secret police investigations, the paramilitary squads were formed by the Medellin Cartel to

protect its interests. The members of those squads were trained by Israeli mercenaries headed by former Lt Col Jair Klein.

It was reported that since the beginning of the Colombian offensive against the narco-criminal groups 3 weeks ago, joint Army and police troops have seized 15 farms and several urban houses owned by Gonzalez Gacha.

Freddy Rodriguez Celades, 17, son of Rodriguez Gacha, is still under arrest, after having been captured by the authorities along with other drug traffickers during an operation against one of the farms owned by the mafia leader.

Meanwhile, it was learned today that Fernando Galeano Berrio, suspected to be Rodriguez Gacha's finance chief, who was arrested a few days ago, was released by a criminal judge.

Galeano Berrio left his cell on Thursday, 7 September, although he is one of the drug traffickers whose extradition has been requested by the United States and despite being charged with the murder of several leftist political leaders.

According to investigations, Galeano was in charge of handling Rodriguez Gacha's finances. Thus, the possibility that Galeano worked closely with Eduardo Martinez Romero, Medellin drug cartel finance chief, is not ruled out. Martinez Romero was extradited to the United States on Wednesday, 6 September.

Reports published by the Bogota morning newspaper EL TIEMPO indicate that the authorities have confiscated 50 vehicles owned by drug baron Rodriguez Gacha.

According to the documents found at the Medellin Cartel accounting office, which operated in the middle of downtown Bogota, Rodriguez Gacha could own approximately 400 vehicles, many of them armored vehicles or vehicles with powerful radio communications equipment.

Similarly, the Army seized a farm owned by Pablo Escobar Gaviria in Boyaca Port Municipality. Escobar is considered the world's biggest drug trafficker.

Military spokesmen said that one of the many mafia schools for gunmen operated at that farm. Those gunmen are responsible for the massacres of peasants who worked in the northwestern banana region of Uraba.

The operations against Escobar Gaviria continued yesterday when the group of mercenaries who served as escorts for Escobar Gaviria's wife, Maria Victoria Henao, was broken up.

According to reports, close aides of the capo were members of a criminal group called "Love for Medellin." This group is responsible for the murders of several prostitutes, homosexuals, and beggars.

It was also known that the members of the aforementioned group placed a car bomb across from the Medellin Telephone Company, injuring five pedestrians and causing millions of pesos in property damage.

The dynamite attacks, which have become the mafia response to the government's heavy offensive, continued today when an explosive device went off at a private factory located in northwestern Itagui Municipality.

Raids 45 Farms; No Arrests

PA1009031489 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0156 GMT 10 Sep 89

[Report by Hernando Martinez]

[Text] The Army has raided 45 farms in the Middle Magdalena area. During these operations, which have been carried out by the Army's 14th Brigade, over 11,000 head of cattle have been confiscated and 14 vehicles seized.

To carry out the raids, the (Barbula) Battalion was reinforced with 2,000 soldiers who were transported to Puerto Boyaca and other municipalities in the Middle Magdalena area aboard the new Hercules plane that arrived last week from the United States. Although no cocaine laboratories were discovered on any of the sophisticated farms and no arrests were made of drug lords—huge ransoms are being offered for their arrests—the military authorities are certain that those listed as the owners of the properties are mere figureheads.

[Begin recording] [Martinez] Did you go before the Public Order Tribunal?

[First unidentified speaker] I do not who it is or what it is. [as heard]

[Martinez] Where were you told to appear?

[First unidentified speaker] I was ordered to appear there in 5 days and I went. There was no one there, so I gave a power of attorney to a lawyer to represent me there. [end recording]

The same applies to the farm administrators. In general, they claim to have been hired only recently and mention apparently fictitious people as the persons who pay their salaries.

[Begin recording] [Second unidentified speaker] I have been here approximately 26 months.

[Martinez] Who hired you?

[Second unidentified speaker] I was hired by a man called Angel Maria Caceres. I came to work here because I am from this region.

[Martinez] Who pays your salaries?

[Third unidentified speaker] Well, this is done by Mr Cesar Augusto del Rio Mendoza, who is the owner of this property. He is in Bogota.

[Martinez] How long has it been since the owner of Fantasy Island has been here?

[Third unidentified speaker] I guess about 1 year. [end recording]

Despite the intensive search for Pablo Escobar and Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha, alias El Mejicano, the truth is that, here in the Middle Magdalena area, no one claims to know them.

[Begin unidentified official recording] We have devoted these personnel exclusively to the search for the drug traffickers and the people engaged in that activity. Unfortunately, it has not been possible to find them. [end recording]

Because the farms are visibly luxurious and similar in design, the military authorities believe that such lavish wealth can only come from drug trafficking.

Drug Mafias Blamed for Burning Official's Farm

PA1109003989 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2343 GMT 10 Sep 89

[Text] Bogota, 10 Sep (DPA)—Unidentified individuals today broke into a farm owned by Carlos Ossa, manager of the Colombian Institute of Agrarian Reform (INCORA), killed a watchman, and set fire to the farm. Authorities view this action as a continuation of terrorism by the drug traffickers in the country.

The incident occurred in Sevilla Municipality (370 km from Bogota), where approximately five individuals shot to death a watchman who tried to prevent them from entering the farm.

After the 18 August assassination of senator and presidential candidate Luis Carlos Galan, the Colombian Government ordered a relentless offensive against the drug mafias, which have reacted by carrying out bomb attacks and threating to kill officials, judges, businessmen, and journalists.

As INCORA manager, Ossa has launched an intense campaign to confiscate land owned by the drug traffickers and distribute it to peasants as part of the agrarian reform being carried out by the administration of President Virgilio Barco.

"We are not ruling out that the criminals are taking reprisals against Ossa and all the officials who reject the activities by those criminals," a police spokesman told DPA.

In another action attributed to the mafias, several men last night wounded a watchman at an apartment building where Maria Victoria Galan, the sister of Galan, lives. According to the official report, they were planning to attack her.

The resolute action of watchman Javier Velasco prevented the gunmen, who were riding motorcycles, from entering Mrs Galan's apartment.

Meanwhile, members of the army, police, and security forces continued to patrol the Colombian cities to prevent terrorist actions by the drug traffickers who have threatened to kill 10 Colombian judges for every mafia chief who is extradited.

The Colombian Government last night authorized the extradition of Elena Beatriz Zuniga Rodriguez, accused by the U.S. authorities of smuggling cocaine. This brings to two the number of Colombians whose extradition is authorized in less than a week. Eduardo Martinez Romero, suspected "finance chief" of the Medellin Cartel, was sent to the United States on Wednesday.

The bombings have mainly affected Bogota and Medellin, where authorities have implemented unprecedented security measures to prevent terrorist actions.

A police spokesman said that security has been reinforced in terminals, government buildings, media offices, and aqueducts of the main cities because of constant threats that the mafias will blow up those locations.

Many residents of Bogota have been commenting on rumors that the drug traffickers plan to place toxic substances in the aqueduct of this city of 6 million people. The rumor has neither been denied nor confirmed by authorities.

Arrest Order for Galan Murder Suspect Issued

PA1009034389 Paris AFP in Spanish 1855 GMT 9 Sep 89

[Text] Bogota, 9 Sep (AFP)—The prosecutor in charge of investigating the assassination of Liberal presidential candidate Luis Carlos Galan today issued an arrest warrant for Jaime Valencia Martinez, who has been charged with masterminding the crime.

The judge's decision was based on the fact that Valencia Martinez owns the office where five individuals charged with carrying out the assassination were arrested a few days ago.

It was learned that, after the five individuals were arrested, Valencia Martinez telephoned the Judicial Police to offer $125,000 for the release of the suspects, who were identified as Alberto Jubis Hazvumb, Armando Bernal Acosta, Norberto Murillo Chalarca, Pedro Zambrano Delgado, and Luis Alfredo Gonzalez Chacon.

Valencia Martinez is apparently linked to farming activities and the emerald business.

According to reports, when Judicial Police agents arrived at Valencia Martinez' apartment to arrest him, he had already left the building in a hurry.

Government Delegates Meet M-19 Commander Pizarro

PA0809193189 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1740 GMT 8 Sep 89

[Report by Carlos Arturo Paez]

[Text] At this time, in Santo Domingo, Cauca Department, peace Adviser Rafael Pardo, Adviser Gary Santamaria, and Deputy Government Minister Jose Noe Rios are holding talks with M-19 [19 April Movement] Commander Carlos Pizarro. The Government and the rebel leader are seeking a solution to the impasse in the peace dialogue due to the assassination of two M-19 leaders.

Government delegates Rafael Pardo and Jose Noe Rios had to travel to Santo Domingo because of the crisis in the dialogue process caused by the stalemate in the talks and the assassination of two M-19 members near their main camp. The M-19 suspended the dialogue being held in Bogota at the working roundtables and ordered its delegates to return to Santo Domingo. During a telephone call to the Cinevision Newscast, Carlos Pizarro Leongomez said the future of the peace process should be clearly established at today's meeting.

[Begin Pizarro recording] We must come up with specific and long-lasting commitments for peace in Colombia. We have been holding talks for a long time. We have been talking for months. I expected this process to end before the parliament sessions began. It is September now—October will be here soon—and this process cannot go on indefinitely. The country cannot endure our talking about peace for the rest of our lives. [end recording]

The government commission plans to return to Bogota tomorrow.

Peace Talks To Resume

PA0909190889 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1804 GMT 9 Sep 89

[Text] The peace process with M-19 [19 April Movement] that was interrupted due to the murder of two members of that subversive organization—now observing a truce—was restored following a visit by presidential adviser Rafael Pardo to the M-19 camp in Santo Domingo, Cauca Department. Our correspondent Maria Alejandra Gonzalez was there.

[Begin recording] [Gonzalez] The peace process between M-19 and the national government was seriously jeopardized this week due to the murder of two members of that guerrilla organization, which occurred at the border between Cauca and Valle del Cauca Departments. Carlos Pizarro Leongomez expressed his concern over the situation.

[Pizarro] We are living a slow-motion peace process. We need a peace process through which Colombians can feel that peace has arrived, instead of a process that is simply a permanent and endless account of peace tragedies.

[Gonzalez] Over the past few hours, presidential peace adviser Rafael Pardo and Deputy Government Minister Jose Noe Rios met with members of the M-19 Command. The participants reaffirmed their determination to continue with the peace efforts.

A forum for life, democracy, and progress will be held in Santo Domingo this weekend, with the participation of political leaders and representatives from grassroots organizations. The event will include sports and cultural activities. Commissions will work on development plans. At least 2,000 people are expected this weekend at the peace camp. [end recording]

Continuing Violence in Medellin City Reported

Bomb Explodes at Bank 8 Sep

PA0809150189 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 1410 GMT 8 Sep 89

[Text] Medellin, Colombia, 8 Sep (REUTER)—Colombian police have reported that unidentified men violated the curfew early this morning and blew up a state-owned bank in southern Medellin City. The attack resulted in extensive property damage but no casualties were reported as a result of the blast.

A Medellin Metropolitan Police spokesman said that a 3-kg bomb exploded at the Agrarian Fund in Itagui Municipality, causing damage estimated at 1 million pesos (approximately $2,500). According to the police spokesman, the doors and windows of the Agrarian Fund, which has been the target of several attacks since "the Extraditables"—a group linked to the Medellin drug cartel—declared war against the Colombian Government last month, were damaged.

The attack took place at 0430 local time (0930 GMT), 30 minutes before the end of the curfew that has been decreed in Medellin to try to halt the wave of attacks against public and private facilities.

Official statistics show that in 17 days, there have been 30 dynamite attacks that have killed two people and injured 19 others in Medellin. Another 17 bombs were defused during the same period.

Three unidentified men spread gasoline on the floor of a restaurant last night and set fire to it, and a Public Works Ministry vehicle was also set on fire in another incident.

4 Injured in Car Bomb 9 Sep

PA0909044489 Paris AFP in Spanish 0402 GMT 9 Sep 89

[Text] Medellin, Colombia, 8 Sep (AFP)—A powerful bomb exploded tonight, Friday, in the Colombian city of Medellin, opposite a telephone exchange, causing severe property damage, AFP was able to verify.

According to unofficial sources, four people including one child were injured by the explosion. The bomb was apparently hidden inside a car.

The telephone exchange watchman, Jaime Gaviria, told AFP that the bomb had not affected telephone connections. However, the front of the public building, where the car was parked, was partially destroyed.

Parts from the pulverized vehicle were hurled hundreds of yards from the site of the explosion and shattered the windows of numerous mansions at the Laureles residential neighborhood, located west of the city.

5 Official Vehicles Burned

PA0909143389 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1225 GMT 9 Sep 89

[Text] Medellin—Millions of pesos in property damage is the result of a wave of attacks carried out against public property in Medellin on 8 September. Medellin public offices were the main targets of the attacks.

Unidentified men placed a car bomb at the 243 telephone central in the Laureles neighborhood in western Medellin. The unidentified men set fire to four jeeps and one truck in the San Javier, Simon Bolivar, and Aranjuez neighborhoods. Aranjuez is located in the northwestern part of Medellin.

It is important to stress that as a result of this wave of attacks, a vehicle belonging to the Barbosa Municipal Office, another one belonging to the Municipal Planning Office, a third belonging to the Medellin Comptroller's Office, another belonging to the Municipal Traffic Deparment, and one motorcycle belonging to the Traffic Department were set on fire.

The most serious incident took place in the Laureles neighborhood on 39P Street and 76th Avenue, where the car bomb affected a government building injuring five people including one girl. All of them are now out of danger.

The Medellin authorities arrested an individual identified as Carlos Mario Granada, 25, who was caught unaware by the police as he, along with four other individuals who managed to escape, set a government vehicle on fire in the Manrique neighborhood.

Bomb Damages Factory; 2 Injured

PA0909144089 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1250 GMT 9 Sep 89

[Text] A few minutes ago, authorities in Medellin confirmed that a bomb exploded in a factory that manufactures springs for heavy machinery at 51st and 41st Avenue, in the Itagui area south of downtown Medellin.

It has been reported that 2 people were slightly injured in the blast, which caused much damage to restaurants and other factories in the area. The identity of the two persons has not been established. Apparently one is a messenger and the other an employee of a nearby establishment.

More Attacks Reported 10 Sep

PA1009130289 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1204 GMT 10 Sep 89

[Text] There were two new attacks late last night and early this morning in the Medellin metropolitan area. No persons were injured, but the damage is very costly. Another [word indistinct] was blown up with dynamite shortly before the curfew. Another garbage collection vehicle was set on fire at 0100 in Bello. Eighteen vehicles have been set on fire in this city in the last 3 days, 17 of them belonging to government organizations.

Police Kill 5 Kidnappers, Release Businessman

PA0909141089 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1220 GMT 9 Sep 89

[Text] Medellin—An operation carried out by F-2 units attached to the Medellin Metropolitan Police in eastern Medellin last night resulted in five kidnappers being killed and one Antioquia Department businessman being rescued.

The police operation was conducted at the 4 km marker on the road to Santa Elena. Businessman Bernardo Marulanda, 65, was freed safe and sound. The kidnappers were requesting a ransom of $1 million for Marulanda.

Two of the kidnappers were identified as Gilberto de Jesus Vedoya Gomez and Elquin Robinson Restrepo. The kidnappers were carrying one fragmentation grenade, one assault shotgun, and three revolvers.

Bernardo Marulanda had been held in an underground hideout, which the kidnappers called the town jail. Marulanda was held there for 4 days until he was finally freed.

Army Arrests 6 Quintin Lame Rebels in Cauca

PA0909144289 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1228 GMT 9 Sep 89

[Text] Bogota—Six suspected members of rebel group Quintin Lame, who were arrested by the Army in a rural area of Cauca Department after bloody clashes in which two rebels were killed, will be put before a public order judge within the next few hours.

The authorities identified the two dead guerrillas as Fernando Abirama, otherwise known as False Heart, 35; and a younger guerrilla known as Ermey. The two men were Quintin Lame Commando Unit militants.

Three of the six arrested rebels were identified as Jose Alfredo Munoz, otherwise known as Alex; Edgar Mazabo, otherwise known as Aldemar, 21; and Jesus Cerna, 30.

PSC Party Member Killed in Santander

PA0809160489 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 4 Sep 89 p 9-A

[Text] Heriberto Jerez Sandoval, the mayor of Santa Barbara, Santander Department was shot to death yesterday near Santa Barbara. He was a Social Conservative Party member.

According to a report from the National Police, Jerez Sandoval, 28 years old, was killed by unidentified men in Quebradas, Guacas Jurisdiction, Santander Department. An unidentified 38-year-old man was also killed along with the mayor. The two corpses show gunshot wounds.

UP Councilman Killed in Antioquia 8 Sep

PA1009034589 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0454 GMT 8 Sep 89

[Text] Bogota, 8 Sep (EFE)—Police reported today that a councilman of the Leftist Patriotic Union (UP), who was a member of the Santa Fe Municipal Council in Antioquia Department, northeastern Colombia, was shot to death today while he was riding a motorcycle.

The 32-year-old councilman was identified as electrical engineer Carlos Alberto Zapata.

Zapata was riding through the Cuaico rural area near San Jose de Antioquia when he was shot.

Since the UP was founded in 1985, as a result of an unsuccessful peace plan attempted by the then Social Conservative President Belisario Betancur (1982-1986), more than 800 of its leaders and members have been killed.

Some of the victims include Jaime Pardo Leal, founder and first president of the UP who was killed on 11 October 1987, and Jose Antequeara, the number-three man in the UP leadership who was killed on 4 March of this year.

Police Report Murders of Peasants by FARC

PA1109030889 Paris AFP in Spanish 0155 GMT 11 Sep 89

[Text] Bogota, 10 Sept (AFP)—Colombian police have reported that a new massacre of peasants took place when a group of alleged guerrillas of the communist Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), entered the town of La Palma, 80 km northeast of Bogota.

The rebels, belonging to the 22d Front, dragged peasants Jose Antonio, Jose Hugo, and Fidel Moreno from their homes, accusing them of being Army informers, and executed them.

The rebels also killed farmers Jesus Hernandez, Hector Horacio Libano, and Benigno Prieto in La Palma's El Potrero Road. Reinforcement police units were sent to this town to prevent public order disturbances.

In addition, the police said banana union leader Eulices Gomez was killed on Sunday in the town of Carepa, northeast of Antioquia Department, by individuals who took him by surprise as he was leaving the Sintrainagro [National Union of Agrarian Workers] offices.

Gomez is the second banana union leader murdered by unidentified persons in the past 24 hours. Juan Sebastian Mosquera Mosquera was killed on Saturday in the town of Apartado, by individuals the police have yet to identify.

Meanwhile, worker Carlos Martinez was kidnapped in Chigorodo, which is also located in Antioquia's banana region.

Peru

Interior Minister: U.S. Drug Aid 'Ridiculous'

PY1109032189 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 11 Sep 89

[Excerpt] Interior Minister Agustin Mantilla has told this station that U.S. aid to Andean countries to fight drug trafficking is insufficient. Mantilla also talked about protecting candidates who are running for municipal and regional positions.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] The United States has announced a program of economic assistance to fight drug trafficking. Is this help sufficient? Has any assistance already materialized?
[Mantilla] The aid is totally insufficient. I have personally told the charge d'affaires at the U.S. Embassy in Peru that the assistance, forgive the term, is ridiculous, insignificantly small.

[Reporter] Would you say it is like charity?
[Mantilla] I would not call it that because we will not take any charity from anyone, but the amount of U.S. participation in the struggle against drug trafficking is ridiculously small.

[Reporter] What about the support to Colombia? Are they receiving more support?
[Mantilla] I do not want to talk about Colombia. However, I believe that the aid to Colombia is also insignificant.

[Reporter] The economy minister's announcement on the creation of a fund to support the struggle against drug trafficking is important, isn't it?
[Mantilla] Yes, of course. It is important mainly because it represents our people's money and the country's support to fight against these people.

[Reporter] That is not ridiculous.
[Mantilla] No. It is part of our overall effort in this struggle. Nothing that comes from the Peruvian people can be considered ridiculous. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Garcia on Bush Proposal, European Participation

PY0909155589 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 9 Sep 89

[Interview with President Alan Garcia by unidentified reporters after meeting with Colombian President Virgilio Barco in Bogota, Colombia on 8 September—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Reporter] Have you come to discuss bilateral action in the struggle against drug trafficking with [Colombian] President Barco?

[Garcia] I have met with Virgilio Barco to express the Peruvian Government's and people's solidarity with the resolute and courageous struggle he has begun against the universal threat that drug trafficking represents, which we regard as our own war. It is a war that we are willing to wage with Colombia to eradicate drug production and marketing from Latin America.

[Reporter] Did you sign a joint agreement regarding this struggle at the end of the meeting?

[Garcia] No, we have not signed any agreement. We are determined and willing to coordinate all efforts and use all the resources necessary. I have told President Barco that he should view all of Peru's resources for the struggle, confrontation, and any research in this field as if they belonged to Colombia. We consider ourselves to be part of this struggle he has started, and we must coordinate all actions for it to be more effective.

[Reporter] Has any concrete proposal been made for this joint struggle against drug trafficking?

[Garcia] Yes. First, we listened to President Bush's speech. We believe the U.S. Government has made an important but somewhat belated decision. We think it is a commitment by President Bush that we must all support and to which we must contribute. However, we believe—especially the Peruvian Government—that the problem is not only between the United States and the Latin American drug-producing countries. It is a problem that also involves Europe, a large and new drug market that could act as a channel for other world drug markets if we treat the problem as if it only affects the United States and Latin America. Therefore, Peru especially believes that the U.S. President's proposal for dialogue has left out Europe. Including Europe would turn it into a worldwide strategy.

Second, it is not just a matter of offering a few helicopters. In order to tackle the problem fully, the interests of U.S. youths and children should be changed through educational programs as one mean of preventing drug trafficking and addiction. In Latin America we must also find a substitute for coca crops by giving our continent better chances in the industrialized markets. This is a concrete and realistic way of struggling against cocaine production. We believe that these issues must be tackled, as the U.S. President has proposed, through a dialogue in which Europe is also involved. This dialogue should also include not only small figures for military aid but also political meetings to discuss substitution and the overall handling of the problem.

[Reporter] President Bush mentioned the possibility of meeting with the Colombian, Peruvian, and Bolivian presidents. Has any contact been made or any dates set?
[Garcia] This is something we learned about through the media and President Bush's speech in the United States. This speech should be viewed for what it was: a speech addressed to U.S. citizens. But the overall handling of the problem demands international participation, including Europe. If Europe is not involved in the dialogue on drug trafficking and consumption through a representative or government, then we will be missing one party. Also we learned about this proposal on a meeting through Bush's speech. As far as I know, no proposal has yet been made. But, as I said to President Barco, we could propose some convenient site in Latin America, Cartagena for example, where President Bush and the presidents of the three Latin American countries could meet.

[Reporter] Do you consider the amount of aid for Peru, Bolivia, and Colombia mentioned by President Bush as sufficient?
[Garcia] I do not want to give my opinion on the amount of aid. I would rather wait for a dialogue to give my opinion; otherwise it would be like holding a dialogue through the television. If a true dialogue is to be started it would only be polite to give one's opinions personally. What we must point out is that, qualitatively speaking, President Bush and the U.S. Government have finally acted in a decisive manner, although belatedly, but it is a sign of great determination. The scope of the decision is something we still have to discuss. We still must also discuss the overall and qualitative purpose of the decision on substitution and handle the problem from a political and international point of view. [passage omitted]

Bush's Approach to Drugs Termed 'More Serious'

PY0809154589 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1300 GMT 8 Sep 89

[Cesar Arias "Point of View" commentary]

[Excerpts] We have read news reports summarizing an article published by THE WASHINGTON POST 2 days ago and believe that this article reflects many of the distortions that exist abroad regarding the situation in Peru.

The article said that the focal point of the antidrug struggle is not Colombia but Peru, in the Alto Huallaga zone, where—the article stated—the battle against drug trafficking is being lost. THE WASHINGTON POST implicitly blamed this defeat on Peru, claiming that Peruvian state organizations are corrupt and have no political will. The newspaper leveled several charges—some implicitly but others very openly—against not only the government but against Peruvian society in general.

We believe that this is a distortion that reflects the attitudes of several sectors of developed countries, which blame developing countries for a serious problem that is affecting them and mankind in general. In this case, Peru is being blamed.

Several official U.S. sectors, however, have already begun to change this attitude, which we believe is totally wrong and indicative of a mentality that does not want to tackle its own problems.

For example, we believe that President Bush's attitude—even though there has not been a radical change—reveals the beginning of a change in the U.S. Administration that will lead to a much more serous approach to the drug issue.

Contrary to what this incorrect WASHINGTON POST report has said, the drug problem cannot be solved in Peru. It must be tackled by both the consumer and producer countries. [passage omitted]

Massive drug consumption is the result of a relaxed pseudoculture that was created in the 1960's not in Peru but in the United States. President Geroge Bush himself has recognized this. I recall that Mr Bush said in one of his campaign speeches that one of the evils in U.S. society that he wanted to fight was the relaxed attitude toward negative conduct like crime and drug addiction. Due to this attitude, drug addicts have been considered interesting people or even heroes, and this was reflected in some movies. Mr Bush has recognized this situation. [passage omitted]

Drug Fight in Colombia Pushes Dollar Price Up

PY0909235689 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2025 GMT 9 Sep 89

[Text] Lima, 9 Sep (EFE)—It was reported here today that the "all-out" battle against drug trafficking in which the Colombian Government is currently engaged has reduced the supply of U.S. dollars on the Lima black market thus pushing up the price of this currency.

Local experts and black market exchange men have told the news media that there is a direct releationship between the events in Colombia and the marked increase in the exchange rate in Lima because the currently inactive Colombian drug traffickers use U.S. dollars to buy cocaine paste from clandestine Peruvian producers in the jungle area.

Sociologist Federico Velarde reported that there are few dollars on the market because the antidrug drive in Colombia, which has U.S. support, has curtailed the activities of the drug traffickers.

According to the Lima daily LA REPUBLICA, cocaine paste sales have ceased in the coca-producing areas of San Martin Department because of the lack of demand from foreign customers who supply most of the dollars sold on the black market in Lima.

Peruvian police sources have repeatedly confirmed that Colombian planes arrive at clandestine strips in the Peruvian jungle, especially in Alto Huallaga, to purchase cocaine paste, which is then refined in Colombia into pure cocaine.

The pickers of coca leaves, the raw material for the production of cocaine, also receive their pay in dollars.

Some of the street exchange men in downtown Lima and the residential Miraflores and San Isidro neighborhoods, told LA REPUBLICA that the increase in the exchange rate over the last few days—to 4,600 intis per dollar as opposed to 3,900 and 4,000 intis per dollar—is prompted by "the shortage of dollars caused by the situation in Colombia."

"That's why the greenbacks are not coming in from the jungle," one of the street exchange men said. He added that because of this "the price will continue to rise."

He added that "the merchandise is stuck" in the jungle because "for the time being" Colombian planes are not coming in to pick it up. Therefore, there is no inflow of dollars that are later "laundered" in Lima.

Local experts and economists estimate that drug traffic transactions in Peru are worth $3 billion of which between $0.8 billion and $1.2 billion become part of the country's economy.

Peruvian Economy Minister Cesar Vasquez Bazan told the country a few weeks ago that $1 million from drug traffic operations are sold on the black market every day. He added that these dollars are used to send capital abroad, to finance smuggling, and to build up small savings.

Economist Guido Pennano has stated that 30 percent of the country's foreign exchange income is generated by drug traffic, the same amount of dollars that is obtained from mining exports that are responsible for more than 50 percent of the foreign currency that the country is receiving. [sentence as received]

Central Bank Purchases Israeli-Made Weapons

PY0709190589 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0349 GMT 7 Sep 89

[Text] Lima, 6 Sep (EFE)—According to documents released by a Chamber of Deputies committee in Lima today, the Central Reserve Bank (BCR) has purchased sophisticated Israeli weapons and security systems which reportedly have been used to equip Peruvian paramilitary groups.

The Chamber of Deputies committee released to the press the sales contract in which there is a clause that specifies that a group of Israeli instructors will come to train people in handling the equipment.

According to the sales contract, which was published by the newspaper LA REPUBLICA, the purchase includes 9 mm pistols, semi-automatic pistols, bullet-proof vests, gas

masks, metal and bomb detectors, tracer bullets [iluminadores de tiro], laser sights, and magnetic detectors.

An Information Service agent told the morning daily that "the quantity of weapons is excessive for an institution like the BCR, but the fact that the BCR has acquired sensors, which are for very specialized usage in commando and espionage missions, calls one's attention even more."

The documents indicate that the $1-million purchase was made from the Israeli "Da-Israeli," company and that the shipment was made by air and by sea from Israel, arriving in Peru through Belgium and the United States.

Citing a Peruvian Information Service source, the newspaper said that "the purchase by that organization demonstrates the existence of a link between the paramilitary groups that are operating in our country, especially the Rodrigo Franco Command, and retired Israeli military men who reportedly came to our country as instructors."

The Chamber of Deputies committee that is investigating paramilitary activities "has concluded that foreign advisors were and are involved in the training of these groups," specifically citing the ultra-right "Rodrigo Franco Command" (CRF).

The legislators emphasized that they have evidence that a special course for "CRF" members was held, and that reportedly it was given by an Italian instructor and an Israeli instructor.

Nevertheless, the chairman of this Chamber of Deputies committee ruled out the possibility that the CRF group is linked to one of the political parties legally established in Peru.

LA REPUBLICA said that in November 1986 a bomb attack was carried out against the offices of some Israeli technicians in the Miraflores District of Lima. These technicians were the advisors of the then interior deputy minister, and current interior minister, Agustin Mantilla.

Lima Mayor Leaves for Managua Meeting

PY0709180689 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1300 GMT 7 Sep 89

[Excerpt] On 6 September Lima Mayor Jorge del Castillo left for Nicaragua to officially assume the post of president of the union of Iberian-American capital cities.

[Begin Del Castillo recording] The mayors of Central America, Mexico, and the Caribbean will begin meeting on 11 September in Managua. In my capacity as president of (?UCE [expansion unknown]), I was invited to open the meeting and to deliver lectures. It will be a very significant event that will allow us to strengthen ties between Lima and other sister cities, which have for a long time been very far apart, despite being geographically close. [passage omitted]

Terrorists Murder Military Instructor

PY0709201789 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1950 GMT 6 Sep 89

[Text] Lima, 6 Sep (EFE)—The police reported today in Lima that presumed Peruvian terrorists murdered a military instructor inside a technical school in the Andean Province of Huancayo.

The police source added that last Tuesday, 5 September, Freddy Cangahuala, an officer retired from the Navy, was giving classes to his students at the "Tupac Amaru" regional technical school, when suddenly a group of unidentified individuals entered and riddled him with bullets.

The source added that the murderers left a sign on Cangahuala's body saying: "This is how informers die." The sign also carries a symbol of the Peruvian Communist Party (official name of the Shining Path Maoist group).

The police added that the former Marine, and seven other professors, militants of the ruling American Popular Revolutionary Alliance (APRA) party, had been threatened with death. The other professors are no longer giving classes in that school.

Shining Path has been promoting the armed struggle for 2 years in Huancayo, 302 km east of Lima, and has caused the deaths of at least 2,000 people, including civilian and military officials, peasants, and regional political leaders.

Venezuela

Ministry, Presidential Adviser View U.S. Drug Plan

PA0809231889 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2232 GMT 8 Sep 89

[Text] Caracas, 8 Sep (DPA)—Venezuelan Foreign Ministry sources in Caracas said today that the program against drug trafficking and consumption announced by U.S. President George Bush represents a step ahead in the drive against this harmful problem.

Venezuela has not yet made an official announcement on the program announced by Bush at the White House on 6 September.

Both Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez and Foreign Minister Reinaldo Figueredo Planchart are currently in Europe, where they attended the Nonaligned Movement summit. The two officials began an official visit to Hungary today.

It was said in Foreign Ministry circles, however, that the U.S. program, which stipulates $7.9 billion in 1989 to be spent in the antidrug struggle, takes into account the need to combat both production and the drug consumption in the United States.

During a Nonaligned Movement meeting in Belgrade, Perez proposed convening an international conference to coordinate the struggle against drug trafficking.

In 1984, Venezuela presented at the U.N. General Assembly an international accord draft against drugs. In 1988, this proposal appeared in a UN convention against illegal drug trafficking.

Meanwhile, Bayardo Ramirez Monagas, president of the National Commission Against the Illicit Use of Drugs [Comision Nacional Contra el Uso Ilicito de las Drogas—CONACUID], a body created to advise the president on drug issues, criticized the U.S. Government program.

Ramirez Monagas said that the plan disregards the financing of drug trafficking, which he described as the "strategic core" of organizations such as the Medellin Cartel, and refuses to blame the consumer for the drug business.

According to the presidential adviser, the almost $500 billion handled by the drug traffickers constitute the worldwide financial system's "oxygen."

In the struggle against drug trafficking, Washington has prioritized police action instead of strategies to counter the regional crisis. Bayardo Monagas has called for the implementation of a national plan to prevent Colombian drug traffickers from transferring their activities to Venezuela.

Defense Minister on Presence of U.S. Airplanes

PA1009140989 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 0000 GMT 6 Sep 89

[Text] The arrival of U.S. airplanes at a Zulia State Air Force base has nothing to do with the U.S. airplanes helping Colombia in the struggle against drug trafficking.

In explaining this, Defense Minister Filmo Lopez Uzcategui said that six U.S. airplanes are here as part of a training exchange program.

The minister said that the U.S. planes, which belong to the (TAS-24) group, are involved in training operations in Venezuela, especially with Venezuelan groups 11, 15, and 16. Maracaibo's Rafael Urdaneta Air Force Base is currently serving as a training and logistic support center.

[Begin Lopez Uzcategui recording] This coincides with the situation in our brotherly neighboring country, but there is no relation at all between the arrival of these U.S. training units in Venezuela and the support the United States is giving Colombia. [end recording]

The minister also denied any connection with the situation in Panama. He said that the only connection is that the U.S. airplanes currently in Venezuela are based in Panama.

The defense minister announced that task group No 1 [not further identified] is now in operation. This group has its quarters in Paz District, Apure State, under the command of Army General Humberto Pacheco, who will coordinate control and security operations along the borders.

Indians Report 30,000 Hectares Planted in Coca

PA1009163289 Paris AFP in Spanish 0527 GMT 6 Sep 89

[Text] Caracas, 6 Sep (AFP)—Yupka Indians have reported that there are coca plantations of up to 30,000 hectares on the Venezuelan side of the Sierra Perija region in northwestern Venezuela which borders Colombia, Caracas Radio Rumbos reported today.

The plantations are located to the north of Aroito, a town in the highlands of the Sierra Perija, the Indian leaders told the local authorities.

The Yupka leaders requested that the local police intervene because "the plantations create security problems in the region."

The government of President Carlos Andres Perez intensified border surveillance after Luis Carlos Galan, the Colombian Liberal Party's presidential hopeful, was killed in August.

According to the local press, the Venezuelan authorities have seized one cattle ranch, two luxury homes, and several vehicles belonging to drug traffickers linked with the Medellin Cartel near Maracaibo, 500 km southwest of Caracas and 100 km east of Sierra Perija.

On 4 September, Zulia State Governor Ismael Ordaz ordered extra security measures in the consulates at Maracaibo "to prevent possible attacks by narcotics trafficking groups."

* Employment Plan To Assist Unskilled Workers

33480268a Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 5 Aug 89 p D9

[Text] The reformulation of the National Employment Plan approved by the Chamber of Deputies' Finance Commission, which will be debated next Tuesday in a joint session, contains provisions enabling the executive branch to carry out public credit operations totaling up to 23.9 billion bolivares, 15.276 billion of which would be procured from a loan granted by the World Bank, and the difference (8.624 billion) through the sale of public foreign debt bonds.

Of the total stipulated in the law, 20 billion will be distributed among nearly 40 different programs to be run by ministries, autonomous institutions, and state governments; but only 5.676 billion bolivares (30 percent of the specified sum) will be utilized during the remainder of this year, leaving 14.324 billion to pay for projects initiated or completed in 1990.

As EL NACIONAL reported, according to the bill drafted by the Central Office of Coordination and Planning, Cordiplan, for financing the "Employment, Social Investment, and Technical Assistance Plan To Back the Macroeconomic Adjustment Program and Public Debt Reduction Operations," if it were not for this plan, the unemployment rate at the close of next year would

amount to 11.2 percent. Hence the importance of starting to execute the programs by the end of the third quarter of 1989 at the latest.

"The primary purpose of the Employment Plan is to generate jobs and income for the mass of the active population which, belonging to the lowest class, is most vulnerable to potential reductions in the work force demand that could be temporarily harmed as a result of the macroeconomic readjustment," states the aforementioned plan. Based on the criteria cited by Cordiplan, it calls for short-term projects using unskilled local labor and not entailing a need for foreign currency.

The Employment Plan calls for the execution of construction and maintenance programs, broken down as follows:

Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock [MAC]:

1.08 billion bolivares for small irrigation systems (350 million), large irrigation systems (350 million), and agricultural development (380 million).

Ministry of Environment and Renewable Resources:

1.18 billion, distributed among flood protection (435.5 million), drainage (30 million), recreational camps (82.5 million), bathing resort sanitation (34.9 million), landslide control (20 million), infrastructure conservation (219.6 million), and canalization projects (182 million).

Ministry of Urban Development [Mindur]:

2.8 billion, for district consolidation (600 million), sports facilities (400 million), Inam [expansion unknown] facilities (300 million), production support infrastructure (200 million), wholesale markets run by MAC (300 million), and completion of small projects under way (1.0 billion).

Ministry of Justice:

300 million for prison facilities (the execution will be the responsibility of Mindur).

Ministry of Health and Social Welfare:

2.35 billion bolivares for programs such as rural housing (1.7 billion), rural aqueducts (200 million), sewers (100 million), and welfare center preventive maintenance (350 million).

Ministry of Transport and Communications:

3.15 billion for preventive maintenance (900 million), highway safety (50 million), district equipment (450 million), and agricultural roadways (1.1 billion), as well as others.

Venezuelan Corporation of Guayana:

376 million bolivares, 150 million of which will be for district improvement and 100 million for the construction of wholesale markets.

Educational Buildings Foundation:

600 million.

Welfare Infrastructure Improvement Foundation:

950 million.

National Housing Institute [Inavi]:

2.4335 billion for district improvement (610 million), housing credit (390 million), and single-family housing (1.433 billion).

National Institute of Sanitation Works:

1.3 billion for urban aqueducts, expansion and maintenance, systems, and others.

National Parks Institute:

200 million.

It is also planned to distribute about 3.27 billion bolivares among the state governments for conservation, maintenance, and repair of sanitation and electrical facilities, and expansion and waterproofing of facilities such as police stations, schools, dispensaries, prefectures, libraries, tourist facilities, and parks. The amount of funds allocated for each project may not be under 200,000 bolivares nor over 5 million.

As part of this special projects program it should be noted that the construction of 8,746 housing units by Inavi has been programmed, apart from the building included in its regular programming. Construction will also begin on nine wholesale markets distributed throughout the country, as part of the strategy to cope with the cost of living.

A sizable portion of the 20 billion bolivares will be used to finish projects already under way but lacking funds from their normal budget resources. In this way, the government sector hopes to be able to keep the unemployment rate at about 9.4 percent, and to prevent a drastic recession in the construction sector.

* Rios on Creation of Anticorruption Front

33480268h Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 5 Aug 89 p D2

[Text] Antonio Rios, president of the CTV [Confederation of Venezuelan Workers], has announced that the top-ranking labor union will retrieve the fundamental principles of the document signed jointly last year with the Fedecamaras [Venezuelan Federation of Associations and Chambers of Commerce and Industry] leadership, in which encouragement was given for the formation of a front that would organize the battle against corruption.

Therefore, the labor union leadership will make use of its meeting next Tuesday with the attorney general of the republic, Ramon Escovar Salom, to apprise him of the

document and urge him to inform them in detail on his office's particular proposals for countering the scourge of fraud perpetrated against the state.

Among the implications considered by his party is the series of grave accusations made against former President Lusinchi's private secretary, as well as leading officials of his administration. Rios denied that the AD [Democratic Action] leadership is preparing a counteroffensive that would in any way attempt to defend some of those cited, for the purpose of preventing a traumatic outcome for the problem that has been posed.

"It is untrue that a defense is being planned for the leaders who have been cited based on the various charges made public. The fact is that the topic was discussed at the La Casona meeting, an occasion that served as a context for the reading of the document to be submitted to us by Antonio Ledezma. This initiative, moreover, made it possible to open an interesting discussion among the members of the party leadership."

Nevertheless, Rios does not think that the discussion had any highly significant implications, and described the position of some AD leaders as that typical of a "masochist," because "they are going about looking for someone to blame" among themselves. In Rios' opinion, concealed behind the entire campaign of accusations is the COPEI [Social Christian Party] endeavor to apply some oxygen to its own political capital deterioration and that of MAS [Movement Toward Socialism], in an attempt to occupy the space that AD has been occupying for some time.

Another comment made by the labor leader was aimed at showing the impropriety of the opposition's habit of channeling each and every one of its charges of administrative corruption through the news media rather than through the jurisdictional organs of justice.

"Charges must be made through the proper channels so as to punish those who are guilty, whoever they may be, without any opportunity for potentially corrupt individuals to hide or escape justice. As the situation has been aired, one might think that everyone is corrupt, and that such persons can hide behind the cloak of impunity which is being attempted to expose."

In this respect Rios reiterated his party's position when he said that those cited should respond personally to the charges brought against them, that those who feel affected should defend themselves, while "those who prove to be guilty should not expect AD to defend them."

To back this initiative, Rios views with optimism the establishment of the court of ethics, an agency that will enable AD members to organize their individual justice system, a highly important event for the party's internal existence. He said: "Nothing will prevent AD members who are found engaged in improper activities from being reported to the justice system by the court of ethics itself, something that unquestionably constitutes a significant precedent."

Labor Demands

Antonio Rios has not lost sight of the circumstances of the working class, the one most hurt by this entire atmosphere of moral deterioration. The workers had no access to Recadi [National Preferential Exchange Office] funds, and yet they have to face the sacrifices imposed by the entire adjustment program to counter the economic imbalance. Without having taken a dollar from Recadi, they must sacrifice more than anyone else.

"Our position will be one of a firm demand for punishing those responsible for everything that has occurred; and we shall demand that, besides justice, the amount of sacrifice imposed on us must be evenly distributed. Some time ago we achieved the signing of a document jointly with Fedecamaras, in which we anticipated, to some extent, what is happening now. In it we condemned corruption as a scourge attacking democracy and political stability."

Rios announced that, during the meeting with the attorney general, they would request the latter to categorically recommend to the judicial branch greater effectiveness in its action against administrative corruption.

* Rios Discusses Reason for Lowered Inflation

33480268c Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish
31 Jul 89 p D8

[Text] Upon leaving the meeting of the National Accord on Consensus Building held yesterday in Miraflores, at which a lengthy agenda was discussed, Antonio Rios, president of the CTV [Confederation of Venezuelan Workers], declared that inflation has declined at the cost of workers' sacrifice.

For nearly 5 hours the Fedecamaras [Venezuelan Federation of Associations and Chambers of Commerce and Industry], the CTV, and government sectors, including the economic cabinet, studied a series of proposals dealing with topics ranging from the need for the National Congress' approval of the Employment Plan to the quality of public services.

The labor representative from the country's top-ranking workers' federation, accompanied by Federico Ramirez Leon and other union leaders, explained that the CTV had brought a series of issues for discussion.

In commenting on whether inflation had declined or not he said that there was no doubt of its possible reduction, because when a 40 percent drop in consumption occurred, that brought about a cut in inflation. He noted, however, that this was based on necessity, because people are buying less and eating less, and there was no way to achieve a proper system in that way. The minister himself admitted that this was not a feasible system for reducing inflation.

He remarked: "If it is gauged technically, inflation has dropped, but the people's neediness has increased so that the effects are not being felt from a positive standpoint.

This is because it has dropped as a result of a restriction. People are not buying and for that reason inflation is declining also, but the point is that consumption has been reduced."

Antonio Rios claimed that prices will not decline because of the economic dynamics per se, but that what is important is to reconcile prices with wages. The labor leader noted: "We have the lowest employee salaries in Latin America among moderately developed countries. Therefore, we must achieve employment rates that will give people purchasing power so that the very business firms that are suffering the consequences of not selling their products can sell them because there are working masses with purchasing power. And this would be possible so long as their wages increase. The business owners and the government must understand this, because reducing prices of goods is difficult, since they have imported components and that causes prices to rise. What is important is that wages be increased."

He was asked: "Was the wage hike proposed?"

Rios noted that the wage hike was not proposed at the meeting of the National Consensus Building Council. He said that this would be done later, because it will be achieved in two ways: by the revision of collective bargaining and wage compensation—seeking improvements for workers who have found their wages deteriorating as a result of price hikes.

As for the meeting of trade union representatives with the congressional commissions regarding the Employment Plan, the CTV president said that it has not yet been set, because they are waiting for everything associated with this matter to be properly arranged.

He stressed that the wage increase could not be postponed, although it must, of course, be achieved by way of collective bargaining or by way of compensation. He declared: "Wages must be improved, because otherwise there will be no improvement in the country's conditions. If people have no money it will be impossible to reactivate Venezuela, and the only way of achieving this is for the masses of people to have the capacity to purchase the goods that are produced."

* AD Leadership Evaluates Effects of Corruption

33480268d Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish
1 Aug 89 p D2

[Text] For a long time AD [Democratic Action] members had avoided discussing the topic with the candor that the current circumstances require. When the pressure from reporters demanded at least a comment, they would talk about how necessary it was to show evidence of exemplary conduct insofar as the morality and performance of leaders was concerned. But nothing was said about the scandalous subject of corruption, except for Luis Pinerua Ordaz' very sporadic statements.

Yesterday, Monday, as usual, the AD members began their political week with the early morning meeting at La Casona between President Perez and those selected from the inner circle. The delegation from the so-called Operational Committee was headed by Raul Henriquez Estrella, who is serving as the grand guru, while Barrios is recovering in Miami from the wounds that must have been inflicted on his sensitive psyche by this crossfire of charges of administrative corruption. The area relating to the machinery structure was represented by secretary general Humberto Celli, followed by Alfaro, Canache, Lepage, Morales Bello, Pinerua, Federico Ramirez Leon, Leandro Mora, and Izaguirre, while Antonio Rios and Carmelo Lauria attended as special guests.

The agenda, made public last week, entailed an in-depth discussion of the issue of corruption and the very specific charges against former President Lusinchi and his private secretary, attorney Blanca Ibanez. During the course of the meeting those attending had an opportunity to learn the serious accusations made (and duly supported) against AD officials and leaders who, during the previous administration, made profits under the protection of Miraflores or owing to their status as congressmen from the government party.

Finally, among the findings of the meeting, emphasis was placed on the need to focus the discussion on "businessmen politicians," or rather, certain private business owners who engage in politics for the purpose of doing good business with the state. A highly reliable source claimed that the evidence lent an extremely serious tone to a meeting usually held to discuss administrative type issues. Nothing with a bad odor can be concealed for long.

In the way the meeting was set up, it was possible to set the agenda which, hours later in the CEN [National Executive Committee], was to give rise to the debate on a topic as sensitive as administrative corruption: a topic which, as a rule, inhibits a large portion of the AD leadership. In the CEN, Antonio Ledeszma, as a new voice crying out in the wilderness, rebelled against the usual custom of "ducking" irregularities and charges of corruption which, from force of habit, are becoming part of the national tradition.

The Ledezma Document

Antonio Ledezma has for some time been citing the need for his party to rid itself of those leaders who have been identified as "agents of government corruption." In his remarks to the news media there is usually a constant complaint against his fellow party members who have made a habit of profiting from public funds, taking advantage of their status as AD leaders.

Yesterday he read to the CEN members a document judging the situation severely and analyzing the consequences for Democratic Action as a political organization and for President Perez' government, if the leadership and the government do not take decisive action now against those identified to the public as being corrupt.

Generally speaking, Ledezma said that AD has a moral obligation to back the battle against corruption whatever its concrete manifestation may be. For this purpose he requested from the government resources and support for the agencies in which charges are being brought, so that they may be followed up and conclusive results may be submitted within the shortest possible length of time.

In the text of the document he urged the members identified as having committed acts of administrative corruption to publicly explain their individual situations, without expecting any great solidarity from the party. As for those making the charges, he asked them to submit the evidence constituting grounds for their accusations.

A CEN member who chose to discuss the document with us privately said that it was quite general and, therefore, to establish a conclusive position toward it was difficult. Nevertheless, he thought that its "generality" would enable his party's leadership to debate this controversial topic and ultimately arrive at a "conclusively true" position on the issue of administrative corruption.

When an attempt was made to determine the minimal levels of solidarity that the party could offer to the Lusinchi administration, there were differences in approach, as our informant chose to call them. He cited the position taken by Luis Emilio Rondon, who pointed out that, because of the general nature of the document, it was difficult to arrive immediately at a determination of liability, and hence the issue could be discussed without an a priori judgment of the Lusinchi administration.

Pinerua was of a different opinion, warning that the party had already had sufficient solidarity with former President Lusinchi, and that from all appearances the solutions were in the institutional area, and of a different type. At the entrance to the CEN offices, when the meeting had ended, he denied having any knowledge of the arrest warrant issued against the former president's private secretary. "I am having breakfast and have not heard about that decision. Please wait until I can check it out."

A few minutes later he avidly read an evening newspaper to learn the details of the report. Between the haste to obtain a statement from the controversial leader and his usual circumspection, Pinerua eluded the reporters encircling him and left with Ledezma who commented that "his position was neither hard nor soft, but just as it had been during his entire career in Democratic Action."

"There are points with which I wish to help clarify the situation that is currently agitating the country, involving a party with a great history and sufficient cause for its members to be proud of their dedication to the AD cause, with the force and will that they have expended in so doing throughout the existence of this instrument in the people's service. That has been my position, as it is of the vast majority of the party's leaders also."

The discussion of the topic of corruption will continue after 1700 hours today, and promises to give AD reason for revising its role as a political party and for some of its leaders to consult the dictionary and find the meaning of the word "solidarity" in the light of these events. In Poland it means something quite different.

* Consumer Group Outraged by Food Basket Policy

33480269a Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish
7 Aug 89 p D12

[Text] The Consumers Initiative Movement sent to this newspaper's editorial offices a text in which it declares that the Supreme Court of Justice has delayed the decision regarding the appeal for amparo associated with the basic food basket filed over a month ago by the following organizations: Popular Civic Action Service Center, National Association of Clinics and Voluntary Legal Assistance (Asocliva), the Consumers Initiative Movement (MIC), and Community Learning Centers.

It makes the following statements therein:

"According to Article 26 of the Organic Law of Amparo on Constitutional Rights and Guarantees, once a case has been heard, the decision must be issued within a period of 96 hours. And a month has already elapsed since we filed the appeal.

"Now more than ever a decision is urgently needed. The crisis that the country is undergoing with respect to prices and shortages is nothing ordinary. The dispossessed and low income classes are viewing with alarm the speculative price increases occurring day after day, without any compensation in the form of halting speculation and hoarding. We have already stated that the basic food basket decreed by a resolution of 19 June 1989, with No 296, is simply a fallacy. The letter of intent signed with the IMF sets a policy for elimination of the previous price control system, except for the 25 essential products and services that it stipulates. And in Venezuela the decrees issued on the basic food basket have been shortening that list grossly, leaving it at 16 in the latest decree.

"Venezuela signed the World Food Security Pact approved during the 23rd session of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in November 1985. This agreement states that 'the goal of eradicating hunger and malnutrition and of achieving food security for everyone is a central mandate of the FAO.' It also declares that 'measures are to be established for food security, such as increased production and a greater current establishment of supplies and access to food for the poor sectors of the population.'

"Our National Constitution (as we stated in the appeal filed for amparo) stipulates that, for the purpose of 'protecting human dignity, promoting the general welfare and social security, achieving an equitable share for everyone in the enjoyment of wealth, based on the principles of social justice, and fostering the development of the economy in the service of mankind,'...it is necessary to restore and maintain the socioeconomic equilibrium that has been broken.

"The basic food basket that has been decreed violates all those fundamental principles. It is impossible to believe that Venezuelan families can be well fed with semolina flour, pasta, rice, cornmeal, canned sardines, powdered milk, sugar, oil, cheese, a few legumes, infant formulas, and bouillon cube soups. Protein-rich foods such as red meat, chicken, fish, and eggs are not in this basic food basket, not to mention other goods and services that are essential for human subsistence.

"The basic food basket is not only insufficient, but it is not being put into effect. There are not sufficient supplies of the aforementioned products, and if this decree was intended to establish preferential prices for poorer and middle class families, this is not happening, because those prices are not even being put into effect. There is a great deal of pressure for eliminating the PVP [sales price to the public], and now we are observing some business firms, even though this measure has not been implemented, eliminating the PVP from the containers of their products, as in the case of salt.

"Land transportation is also included in the basic food basket, and we are encountering new rate increases every day. The policy of price deregulation is definitely total.

"In the appeal we stated: 'Despite the theory that is operative among the political leadership of a neoliberal nature, and the IMF's imposition, it must be acknowledged that with deregulation of prices and markets, there is an obligation to provide for and safeguard a basic food basket that cannot be left to the 'consensus building' (which was applied to the Guarenas transport workers), much less to a free play of supply and demand, which implies the presence of the strongest one, economically and socially speaking, in the generation of income which often borders on abuse, because such theories contradict and violate the Constitution and its guarantees for economic and social equilibrium.'"

* Aguilar Opposes Lower Agricultural Tariffs

33480269b Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish
7 Aug 89 p D2

[Text] Today Pedro Pablo Aguilar warned that the serious problems faced by agriculture could become tragic if the government yields to the World Bank pressure for opening the national market to imports of agricultural products.

The chairman of the Senate's Agricultural Commission stressed that the World Bank is demanding a reduction in agricultural tariffs which, if accepted, would represent the final blow to national agriculture, which has been the sector hardest hit by the macroeconomic adjustment program imposed by the IMF.

He commented: "I recently gave a lecture at the Agricultural-Livestock Credit Fund in which I warned that the United States and the European Economic Community are waging a trade war to sell their farm surpluses, and that Venezuela is considered a solvent market with a deficit which cannot supply itself and which has petrodollars with the credit potential for becoming a major recipient of U.S. and European agricultural overproduction.

"The United States claims that its agriculture is in a state of crisis owing to surpluses. The astounding scientific and technical development has converted U.S. farming areas into food factories, the production from which far exceeds national consumption. Overproduction has increased extraordinarily during recent years to the point where it is even claimed that a tragedy of abundance is being experienced."

He maintained that Europe is undergoing a similar situation, with overproduction there amounting to 25 percent of demand, added to the fact that Germany, Great Britain, France, Belgium, Italy, and the Netherlands rank among the 10 leading world exporters of agricultural products.

He explained: "Agricultural exports are vital to the United States and Europe. Hence the silent war for markets, especially solvent markets. Venezuela is not an insignificant market. Last year we imported $1.322 billion worth of agricultural products. This year, if we wanted to maintain last year's consumption levels, our imports would have to exceed $2 billion. And in 1990, if the government's strategy does not change drastically, required imports would stand at $3 billion. This is not an insignificant market for countries desperately seeking to sell their surpluses: in other words, the very countries that decide on IMF and World Bank policies."

Aguilar claims that, for all kinds of reasons, including its tropical conditions and technological backwardness, our country cannot compete with U.S. or European agriculture. This can be realized from the mere fact that France, for example, with an arable area smaller than ours, has a production 10 times greater.

"Furthermore, both Americans and Europeans subsidize their agriculture generously. Subsidies in the United States constitute $25 billion, while they amount to $33 billion in the European Economic Community."

They Are Destroying Our Production Capacity

For him, "It is difficult to understand why, in the negotiations with the IMF, measures that are destroying our agricultural production capacity have been accepted, unless we agree to revert to the status of a mining country forced to purchase its food and vegetal raw materials required by industry abroad. It is understandable that the IMF and World Bank should want to assist the United States and Europe in their trade policies of marketing agricultural surpluses, but what would be unjustified is our acceptance of returning to port- agriculture at the Fund's behest."

The Brady Plan Strategy

He went on to discuss U.S. strategy since the decline in our agricultural production, due to the implementation

of the new economic measures based on advantages for competing with the European Community.

"The magazine OUTLOOK, published by the Yankee Agriculture Department, has commented with great enthusiasm that if the Brady Plan succeeds in reducing the underdeveloped nations' foreign debt the United States could again increase its agricultural exports. It adds something that appears exceptionally important to us, since it is a government publication. It claims that the Brady Plan is based on the condition that the beneficiary countries establish an open-door policy toward food imports."

He continued: "As may be observed, every day we are acquiring further evidence to warrant suspicion that the conditions imposed by the World Bank and the IMF entail a virtual destruction of our national agriculture. Venezuela is not the only country subjected to a program of macroeconomic adjustments recommended by the IMF. And it so happens that, in all the developing countries that have been subjected to that program, agriculture has been dreadfully hurt, with the immediate result that they have had to increase their agricultural imports."

After these thoughtful comments, he called for mobilization of public opinion and of the institutions with a patriotic mission and will (Fedeagro [National Federation of Agricultural-Livestock Producers], the Peasant Organizations, Fedecamaras [Venezuelan Federation of Associations and Chambers of Commerce and Industry], Pro Venezuela, and the Academy of Economic Sciences) to cope with what constitutes an emergency.

Agricultural Collapse Would Bring Down the Entire Economic System

Aguilar seemed convinced that an agricultural collapse would bring down the entire economic system, arguing that it is not true that agriculture accounts for only 7 percent of the GDP [gross domestic product], something that represents a diminished appraisal of the agrosystem's importance.

"The agrosystem is as important as oil to the GDP, with the difference that the agrosystem represents an employment potential 50 times higher than oil. The oil industry employs 60,000 persons, and the agrosystem, 3 million. The diminished appraisal of the importance of agriculture is the most serious mistake being committed by the government, and it could become the grave of the macroeconomic adjustments program. Therefore, if the government really wants to succeed in macroeconomic adjustments, it must shift the direction of its agricultural strategy."

* Open Markets Hazardous to Consumers' Health

33480269c Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish
30 Jul 89 p C6

[Text] The unwholesomeness that abounds in the vast majority of the country's open markets is a serious hazard to the health of the hundreds of thousands of persons who purchase their food there.

This charge was made by the president of the National Association of Public Health Inspectors, Guillermo David Aular, and that institution's general secretary, Wladimir Lara. They described the serious state of deterioration and lack of maintenance which, in their view, has caused the people's supply centers to lack the minimal sanitary conditions necessary for storing and selling any type of food.

According to those interviewed, many of these markets were constructed to provide for the needs of a Caracas with 500,000 inhabitants, and hence their facilities are by now inadequate to meet the demand of a population totaling 4 million.

Guillermo David Aular explains: "For example, the market storage areas are too small for the large amounts of food arriving daily and requiring storage, and most of them have damaged refrigeration systems. As a result, the fruit, vegetables, and meat crammed into these storage places at an unsuitable temperature become spoiled easily."

Lara explained that the sewage pipes in most of the markets are too narrow for the large amounts of waste discarded into them. As a result, they are easily clogged and cause foul overflows in market areas.

This situation prevails in the Kennedy market at Las Adjuntas; the Quinta Crespo market, where it has existed for 15 years; and the Coche market. Aular explains that, nevertheless, the authorities managing these supply centers are only partly solving this problem, since they merely uncover the piping every time it becomes clogged and have never concerned themselves with constructing new pipes of larger diameters that would allow for the smooth passage of water and waste.

The roofs of many markets are riddled with holes caused by leakage. To top it off, the floors are not built with proper grading and have large holes in which puddles remain for days, forming breeding places for larvae and microbes.

The toilets are also in a state of complete deterioration, added to the fact that all the stands have water spigots, and as a result it is very difficult for the vendors to keep them clean. The tiles covering the walls of these stalls often fall off, and it is up to the vendors themselves to repair them.

Nevertheless, the crowds of people make this impossible, and they must do the work only at night.

"Garbage is placed on large wagons waiting for IMAU [Municipal Institute of Urban Sanitation] to come and pick it up, and it remains there decomposing for several days. The problem is that these wagons, veritable focal points of fetidness inundating the environment with foul odors and breeding places for flies, are located relatively close to food storage places and market stands."

Aular notes that, although the vendors have refrigerated display cases for many products, such as chicken and

pork, they prefer to leave them in the open air where they are exposed to this polluted atmosphere.

He explains that many haulers transport beef and fish dragging them along the ground, and many vendors fail to abide by the standards for personal hygiene, such as not smoking or drinking during working hours, wearing smocks, bathing and shaving, and washing hands before handling food.

Lara notes: "They do this for lack of health education. This problem would be solved if the Mersifrica [Markets, Silos, and Cold-Storage Plants of the Federal District], for example, were to require as a condition for purveyors wishing to obtain a concession for a stand that they first pass a series of courses on food handling in which they would learn basic hygienic standards.

"These courses were given in the past by the Health Ministry, but they were terminated some time ago. The National Association of Public Health Inspectors recently gave two courses for soft drink and fish vendors, but this responsibility lies with Health and Social Welfare and Mersifrica. Mersifrica should also help with the ministry's financing."

As the interviewees remarked, prosperous businessmen, politicians, and even members of the miltary have recently been acquiring many concession stands in open markets that should be assigned to persons of small means who really need the stands to subsist.

Aular explains that these wealthy concession-holders, after procuring several such premises, employ poor people to whom they pay a wretched wage simply for selling the products that they themselves obtain, keeping the rest of the profits for themselves.

He claims that the officials who manage the markets are partly to blame for this situation, because they do not exercise any kind of control over the concession of stands.

And he thinks that Mersifrica, for example, should conduct socioeconomic studies of individuals wishing to acquire such concessions so as to ensure that they really need them, thereby eliminating the proliferation of cliques controlling large numbers of stands.

Lara maintains that the state should build new markets with good sanitary structures in at least every district of the city because many of those currently existing, such as the ones at Redoma de Ruiz Pineda, in Caricuao, those at San Martin, and the La Hormiga at El Cementerio, have been set up in a makeshift fashion under bridges and on public squares, and hence fail to offer any kind of sanitary guarantees.